Kuznetsova bags French Open crown **SPORTS /A32** • **No recession** in RP, Bangko Sentral says **BUSINESS /B8** • **Woman escapes** from Abu Sayyaf kidnappers **ACROSS /A17** • **French film festival** grapples with local censors **ENTERTAINMENT /E1** • **Meet the topnotcher** of the licensure for teachers **LEARNING /G1**

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, June 8, 2009 ★ 10 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 180 P15 website: www.inquirer.net

Japan eyes cell phones in controlling pandemic

TOKYO—A FEW MONTHS FROM NOW, A highly contagious disease will spread through a Japanese elementary school.

The epidemic will start with several unwitting children who will infect others as they attend classes and wander the halls.

If nothing is done, the disease will quickly gain reconsiders and rip through the student

JAPAN /A23

2 bodies, ticket found near Airbus crash site

RECIFE, BRAZIL—INVESTIGATORS combed a huge swath of ocean on Sunday in search of more evidence of the doomed Air France Flight 447 after finding the bodies of two passengers and a briefcase.

The French agency investigating the disaster on Saturday said that airspeed instruments on the plane had not been

UNDERSEA /A23

TUMBLING MERMAIDS Swimmers dressed as mermaids perform during the grand opening of the Manila Ocean Park's Mermaid Show at the oceanarium's largest tank. The show will be presented throughout the month.

More bets expected to quit 2010 derby

3 senators say only 3-5 will run for president

By Christine O. Avendaño

TWO OR THREE MORE presidential aspirants will follow the lead of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in quitting the race, three senators said yesterday.

"My fearless forecast is that only two or three of them will remain standing," said Sen. Edgardo Angara, a former Senate president.

The rest will either slide down and become vice presidential candidates or will run for the Senate, he said.

Senators Loren Legarda and Mar Roxas said that in the end, the list of presidential candidates would be trimmed to three or five.

There are now at least 10 presidential aspirants. They include Senators Manuel Villar Jr., Legarda, Roxas, Francis Escudero and Richard Gordon, Vice President Noli de Castro, Defense

MORE BETS /A20

FOOT FOR FOOD Thousands of people join the World Food Program's "End Hunger, Walk the World," a global campaign to raise money for the UN feeding program. Locally raised funds will be used for the school feeding program in Mindanao. /A9

100 tribal healers gather for summit

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

MORE THAN 100 HEALERS FROM various tribes in the country gathered for the first Indigenous Barefoot Doctors' National Summit on May 20-21 at the SMX Convention Center in SM Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City.

Garbed in tribal finery, the delegates paraded around the complex on the first day, drawing the attention of mall goers.

With the theme "Indigenous Peoples Partners in Health and Wellness," the summit was a venue for the community health workers to share experiences and best practices.

It was also a way for the participants to link up with institutions that could help them address their needs. They also wanted to promote awareness of indigenous peoples and their culture.

The name barefoot doctor refers to nondoctors who have received medical or paramedical training for service in rural communities.

But the so-called barefoot doctors were not in Metro Manila for a cultural feast, but for a serious discussion of

100 TRIBAL /A21

Solons warn of martial law option

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jocelyn R. Uy

OPPOSITION LAWMAKERS YESTERday raised fears that Malacañang might use any outbreak of violent protests against Charter change (Cha-cha) as a pretext to declare martial law, and the country's defense chief warned soldiers against joining such protests.

Five members of the House of Representatives—Satur Ocampo, Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III, Edcel Lagman, Rozzano Rufino Biazon and Teodoro Casiño—claimed martial law was one of the "extreme" options being considered by Malacañang to extend President Macapagal-Arroyo's stay in power.

Various opposition groups have announced plans to hold an indignation rally in Makati City on Wednesday, to

SOLONS /A20

GMA allies plan Con-ass next month

By the Inquirer Staff

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S allies in the House of Representatives are calling a constituent assembly (Con-ass) next month to amend the Constitution without the Senate despite outrage by religious and civil society groups.

Reps. Monico Puentevella, one of the authors of House Resolution No. 1109 calling for a Con-ass, said yesterday that administration lawmakers were aware that they were taking a calculated risk in supposing the measure before adjourning the 14th session of

GMA ALLIES /A20

If GMA is unpopular, why fear her? aide asks

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF SHE IS SO UNPOPULAR, WHY BE scared that she would run again? Why demonize her?

President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief defender yesterday issued that question to her critics who say they do not believe she will step down once her term expires next year but will find a way to perpetuate herself in Malacañang.

MAY FEAR GMA? /A20

Paradise city of pines battles urban decay

By Amando Doronila

(First in a series)

BAGUIO CITY—IN LESS THAN three months, Baguio will celebrate its 100 years as a chartered city, swamped by the concrete elements of urban development and the ravages of environmental degradation.

In the countdown to the Sept. 1 festivities, elders are engrossed in planning the revival of the grandeur of Baguio beyond 2009, a city once described as the Philippine "paradise city of the pines."

Two weeks ago, I revisited Baguio for four days after 10 years to find out for myself what is left of its heritage, over which there has been so much lamentation that it has become a "paradise lost."

ANALYSIS

As the lamentation goes, lowland tourists don't find Baguio as cold as it used to be; its downs

CITY OF PINES /A4

THE BELL House at Camp John Hay in Baguio City used to be the residence of the former American governor general.

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Manila	Partly Cloudy	Baguio	Rain
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rain
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rain
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Cloudy with Rain
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Rain

EZ2

12 11 — 13 16

SUERTRES

5 2 6 — 9 1 0 — 2 4 5

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

2 4 6 11 28 35

P29,837,552.40

Bank official cleared of swine flu

FEU, Laguna hospital deny having cases, Jamby says she has regular virus

By Dorris C. Dorobio and Philip C. Tubeza

A UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK (UCPB) foreign consultant—who exhibited flu-like symptoms and caused an influenza A(H1N1) scare in the bank's head office in Makati City last week—has been cleared by medical authorities of the dreaded disease.

"Our foreign consultant tested negative for the virus. The results came out today," said UCPB spokesperson Ricky Lopulan.

The consultant, a Malaysian national, showed flu-like symptoms last week, prompting the bank's management to isolate all the floors of the UCPB where the consultant was working as a precaution on the A(H1N1) virus.

Other sources said the consultant went to the Makati Medical Center and received the favorable test result on Sunday.

Not confirmed

Meanwhile, Far Eastern University (FEU) has advised its students, faculty and employees to wear face masks to prevent the spread of the A(H1N1) virus.

Michaela Mascuñana, FEU vice president for human resources and development, said this was only a precautionary measure, stressing that the university did not have a confirmed case of swine flu.

"We have yet to receive the result (from the DOH) [Department of Health]. Once we get the results, that is the only time we can give out a statement," Mascuñana said in a phone interview.

When asked how many students had been tested by the DOH for the virus, Mascuñana said only three was "no one from FEU exists."

"I'm saying everyone not to believe these (an) nonsense [saying that FEU has a confirmed case of A(H1)]. These are all speculation," she said.

FEU opens on June 17

FEU decided to suspend its class opening scheduled for today as a precaution against the deadly virus. Its decision was reached a day before the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) ordered all tertiary schools to move the opening of classes to June 15.

Mascuñana said FEU moved its opening to June 17 to give its foreign students and those who were advised to go on self-quarantine.

"If they don't get sick after 10 days, they're safe," she said.

She added that the school received the health guidelines from the DOH and were thoroughly implementing them.

No large gatherings

"Students, faculty members, or employees who are sick or are showing signs of an ILI (influenza-Like Illness) should not go to school. They should stay at home and report to our university health services," Mascuñana said.

She said they were also planning to cancel/defer large gatherings to monitor preventive measures the flu.

She added that the school's faculty day, scheduled for June 15, had been postponed to a later date.

Communion in the hand

Priests in the Manila archdiocese had requested Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales to issue a circular/letter to the faithful instructing them to receive communion in their hand, instead of on the tongue, and to refrain from holding hands when they sing the Lord's Prayer during Mass.

Rosales had issued the precautions to prevent the spread of the A(H1N1) virus as early as Friday. However, Fr. Clemente Ilaya, head of the Manila archdiocese liturgical ministry, said the circular would only be sent to the parishes today.

"I think all the churches have complied," Ilaya said in a telephone interview when asked how the parishes received Rosales' circular.

"The response also came from the priests," he added.

No virus in San Pedro

A medical representative, who requested anonymity fearing computer reprisal, said test messages had been circulating in Laguna that a patient at Columbia Medical Center had tested positive for the A(H1N1) virus.

She said the news broke out among medical personnel in the hospital's emergency room on Friday.

In the attending version at Columbia Medical, Jocelyn Rivera said, "We don't have an A(H1N1) case here."

She added that the hospital administration released a memorandum last week denying that a patient suspected of having swine flu had been admitted to the hospital. The patient was instead directed to go to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Alabang.

Jamby has regular flu

Sen. Ma. Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal did have the flu—but it was not the A(H1N1) virus.

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Jamby has regular flu

Sen. Ma. Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal did have the flu—but it was not the A(H1N1) virus.

Except for coughing spells, Madrigal told us Saturday that she was feeling fine but preferred to stay indoors.

"This is not the A(H1N1) virus. It's just a simple flu," Madrigal told radio station dzBB.

Madrigal said that she got sick last week because of her hectic schedule, preparing for her testimony before the Senate committee of the whole, which was hearing the oil-price complaint against Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. Witnesses from Shermen Bordadora and Christine Arandaluz in Manila and Marivic Dizon in Southern Luzon

IN THE KNOW

IN A STATEMENT RELEASED LAST month, the World Health Organization said that while wearing masks in health-care settings could reduce the transmission of influenza, the benefits of wearing masks in the community, especially in open areas, has not been established.

The WHO said that the incorrect usage of masks might even increase the risk of spreading the influenza A(H1N1) virus, which is mainly transmitted via respiratory droplets expelled by speaking, sneezing or coughing.

Thus, the WHO advised people planning to wear a mask to:

- place the mask carefully over the nose and mouth
- tie it securely to minimize any gaps between the face and the mask
- avoid touching the mask while in use
- dispose their masks after touching a used mask
- replace the mask once it becomes damp
- not reuse single-use masks

The WHO said the following measures "[might] be more important than wearing a mask in preventing the spread of influenza":

For individuals who are well

- stay at least one meter away from anyone with influenza-like symptoms (fever, sneezing, coughing, runny nose, chills, muscle aches, etc.)
- avoid crowded places
- shun hands frequently
- open windows to improve airflow in their living area

For individuals with symptoms

- stay at home
- keep distance from other people
- cover the mouth and nose with tissue or other suitable materials when sneezing or coughing
- dispose of the contaminated tissue immediately after use
- clean hands immediately after contact with respiratory secretions
- improve airflow in the living space

Cyril C. Bandolero, Inquirer Research

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Pagasa forecasts sunshine this week

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EXPECT MORE SUNshine and dry weather in the coming days, the weather bureau said yesterday after a week of heavy rains that led to flooding and the cancellation of classes.

"We'll have hotter weather, except in some parts of the country [where] it would be cloudy or partly cloudy," Susperida dela Paz, a weather plotter in the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) told the Inquirer by phone yesterday.

De Paz said the relatively good weather is expected to last until Tuesday.

However, isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are still likely to occur in the afternoons and evening, Pagasa said on its website.

It also warned of possible landslides and flash floods in Palawan and the western section of the Visayas as monsoon rains continue to pour in southern Luzon and the Visayas.

Mindanao will experience cloudy skies and scattered rain showers, it said. With a report

GMA brings home $2.2B in pledges from Korea, Russia

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's week-long visit to South Korea and Russia generated a total of $2.2 billion in investment promises and agreements for the Philippines, Malacañang said yesterday.

Besides the investment commitments, Arroyo and Russian Premier Vladimir Putin agreed to come up with a "defense cooperation" that would initially see the Philippines and Russia exchanging defense attachés.

The bulk of the investment commitments came from South Korean companies, such as a $925-million hotel and golf course to be constructed in Clark Field, Pampanga, Malacañang said in a media briefing upon Ms Arroyo's return to Manila at 7:45 a.m. on a Philippine Air Lines flight.

"In all, we were able to get total investment commitments of $2.2 billion," Bunye said.

Korean companies Eco-Solution and Eco-Power Plantech promised to pour in $475 million for alternative fuel projects, he said.

Eco Solution and its affiliate, Eco-Global Bio-Oils, will also come up with a jatropa plantation project to the tune of $175 million in South Cotabato within the next three years.

Bunye also said Eco-Power Plantech and local partner, Central Luzon Bioenergy, promised to invest $300 million in a major bioethanol plant, also at Clark. He said the plant would produce 500,000 liters of bioethanol daily.

The Korean International Cooperation Agency (Koica) will construct a tire-processing complex worth $12.97 million in Leyte.

The press secretary said Koica will also source $16.9 million to expand the Malitbog Dam in Bukidnon, the largest in Mindanao. The project would be part of the $900-million Investment commitment the Philippines received in agriculture.

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LOTTO 6/45

Jokes, sex videos, raps vs GMA top UP forum topics

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ONLY PHILIPPINE LEADER CONVICTED of plunder still made them laugh. And the questions ranged from the Stephen Hawking video to pinpointing a woman president.

It was standing room only in the ballroom of the University of the Philippines' School of Economics in Quezon City Friday night as sweaty weather raged outside.

In the forum, former President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Loren Legarda, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando quenched themselves as the best to lead the country after the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo ends in 2010.

Living up to his reputation, Estrada brought the house down with his one-liners, but it wasn't clear if he was joking when he said: "Already I have forgiven the Arroyo family" for "forgiveness is the attribute of the strong, that we must be seeking justice for ... my friend PEC."

Estrada was referring to his lawfriend, the opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. who ran in 2004 against Ms Arroyo.

"Did I say (her)?" a startled Estrada told Lozano after the latter ordered him silenced the name of the pardon extended him by Ms Arroyo to which he reportedly agreed not to seek public office.

"Anybody can change his mind," said Estrada. Told by Lozano to name his advisers, Estrada retorted: "That's executive privilege."

Binay received his share of applause with his opening statement, "That's what we are in Makati," which he said over and over again.

He said he might slide down to become Estrada's running mate, but added that the "vice president must be qualified as president."

Echoing the statements of his fellow presidential hopefuls, Binay supported the filing of charges against his downscandler officials for numerous graft cases and constitutional violations.

Fernando, for his part, called for more money for education and social services.

The Senate election to investigate the stolen scandal of Chiz and actress Kristine Hermosilla set on swell with Fernando.

"Let's allow the court to (rule on it)," he said, adding that the Senate should come to if the decisions were to be legislated clear to keep links to the law.

It was Legarda who deftly put a global perspective on the presidency with her advocacy for climate change, migration, and women-based youth empowerment.

Asked about her stand on migration, particularly the plight of overseas Filipino workers, Legarda said: "There's nothing wrong with migration because that's part of globalization."

As silence fell on the mainly nationalistic crowd, Legarda explained that the millions of OFWs must be commended for keeping the economy afloat with billions of pesos in remittances every year.

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Correction

IN THE JUNE 5 issue, the front-page banner story—"Sito, Edsa+ plans huge rally to stop Con-ass"—misstated what Jesus is Lord Movement founder Bro. Eddie Villanueva had disclosed plans to join forces with the opposition to fight the convening of the House of Representatives into a constituent assembly. Villanueva has clarified that a meeting between himself and opposition leaders was "unlikely at this point," and that his group would be staging its own protests against Charter change for the time being.

Dante Tan seeks reversal of SC ruling

By Norman Bordadora

UNITED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA crony Dante Tan has asked the Supreme Court to reverse its ruling ordering the Pasig City Regional Trial Court to proceed with the trial of the businessman on charges of insider trading and stock price manipulation involving Jose Wantz Inc.-owned Corp.

The Supreme Court on April 21 ordered the Pasig court to proceed with hearing the case after finding that Tan had agreed to separate trials for different charges to overturn with the 8M stock scandal, considered the worst to hit the local stock market. It ruled that there was no violation of Tan's right to a speedy trial.

Tan, in a motion for reconsideration filed by lawyer Ilusia Bautista, argued that the Supreme Court ruling "has no factual and legal basis" to say he had given implied consent to a trial of criminal case No. 119698 separate from case Nos. 119671 and 119692.

Case No. 119698 details Tan's alleged violation of the Securities Act provision against "squeezing the market fund," a crime punishable by up to 21 years in prison.

The two other cases are related to Tan's alleged failure to report to the Securities and Exchange Commission his ownership of JWI shares.

The Department of Justice filed the charges against Tan in December 2008 but the Pasig court dismissed the charge for violation of the Securities Act, agreeing with Tan that his right to a speedy trial was violated when the government failed to prosecute for more than two years.

The Court of Appeals and, subsequently, the Supreme Court reversed the trial court decision, saying that Tan agreed to have separate trials for Case No. 119692 and the two other cases.

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City of pines battles urban decay

Front page B-1

CABBAGE hogs pile up along Bokod Road in Baguio City. INQUIRER

Town streets (especially Session Road) are congested with vehicles and human traffic as faced in la Manila, its multiple buildings, relics of the city's nineteen colonial rule. Some towns now denies its pine tree cover is less dense than it was some decades ago. Its streets overflow with mounds of garbage in plastic bags uncollected for weeks, and in recent years, its fresh has been elevated by the invasion of Korean business establishments, restaurants, shops, offices, and the change over presence of Korean nationals in the streets, places of entertainment, parks and in leased dwellings or buildings.

The last heritage of Baguio is not to be found in these manifestations of urban development and upside. It is to be found in the old public buildings that proclaim the city's glorious past.

There are still many things going for Baguio, aside from the old colonial relics and its healthful climate. It is a natural garden city and the only city in the Philippines planned as a natural park by American architect Daniel Burnham, whose legacy is the Burnham Park at its heart, defining its architectural design.

The heritage of Baguio is preserved in such edifices and public monuments as what originally at Camp John Hay, Camp Allen, Teodoro Camp, the Baguio Central School, the new City Hall standing on the site of the old City Hall, one of the first colonial building built by the American government patterns after they proclaimed Baguio the summer capital of the Philippines.

The usual tourist spots remain—the Mines View Park, Wrights Hill and the Botanical Hill, due to opposition the cultural legacy of Baguio to the nation, war has to go deeper into the history of those relics that deserve more than cursory inspection.

Built out of wilderness

Baguio was the first city in the Philippines to be built from a wilderness and only six years after it was granted a charter, it already held its carnival and included the list.

According to the newspaper Baguio Midland Courier, Baguio is different from any other city in the Philippines.

It is the administrative and political centre of the Cordillera region, a trade gateway, a university town due to the center of higher education in northern Luzon, and the center of the mining industry in the area.

Baguio is a special economic zone and the base of nine foreign firms, including Texas Instruments Philippines Inc., a leading producer of semi-industrial parts and accessories to the world market.

In planning for the Baguio centenary, one of the objectives of the Baguio Centennial Commission is to create a draft of the revised of Baguio after 2009.

In March, the commission asked Grade 4 pupils of Kipkip Quirino Elementary School in Bontoque Imao to draw what they like and dislike about Baguio.

Commissioner Joseph Allonzo, retired city architect, said this method so he can gauge how the new generation envisions the city in the next 100 years.

Wrapping up the centennial conference at the University of the Philippines Baguio in March, American anthropologist Gerald Finn, an authority on Cordillera history at the East-West Center in Hawaii, said he empathized with "the lament of Old Baguio," which was highlighted at UP in academic exposition about the city's decay, its depleted water resources and its uncontrolled population boom.

Problems with success

Finn said that what subsidies were lived to Baguio were "problems associated with success," and they might have to reside the city for turning into a bustling multinational and multiethnic metropolis to only 100 years.

Finn was impressed by the "range of economic activity and the rich array of light-food" shifts and dusty [illegible] information at community drawn to Baguio from 1980 to 2000,2 which contributed to its diversity."

Allonzo said the children's drawings provided a graphic story of the changes they perceive are occurring in their environment.

Most of the children he studied have drawn houses which tend to indicate their preference for a healthy Baguio. "I was inspired by the blue skies," he said.

To express his dislikes, a pupil drew images of Camp John Hay, which is the closest forested area to the school.

In the drawing, the pupil wrote: "People cut trees in the area.... they want to build buildings, resorts and restaurants, and mushrooms so that they will have more money."

Baguio dumps its trash in a commercial landfill in Capas, Tarlac, more than 100 kilometers away, to get rid of a daily waste output of 100 tons. The city spent P30 million in these months for garbage disposal.

Neighboring communities have refused to take Baguio's trash, meaning that it pollutes water resources and drinking water sources.

Depleted forest cover

The warming of Baguio's cold temperature has often been blamed on the depletion of its forest cover.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Cordillera forest area may have shrunk by 30 percent in the last few years.

Only 605,706 hectares of the region's 1.6 million hectares (ha) have remained. More than 958 ha have been lost from 2005 to 2010 alone or an average of 314.08 ha a year.

If this trend is not arrested, the loss of watersheds could make doubly difficult engineering the region as a carbon sink, according to Baguio Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Environment Management Bureau director for the region.

A "carbon sink" is like a garbage bin that stores or recycles its carbon dioxide, Bautista said.

Tree planting or reforestation remains to be the first measure to curb the region as a "carbon sink," the DENR said.

The department's data show that from 2000 to 2007, 4,284 ha of forests had been reforested, or a recovery rate of 5.42 ha a day compared to the 581.08 ha lost yearly or 1,590 ha lost a day. (To be continued)

Cops probe another death at Hanjin's Subic shipyard

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—WAS IT A SUicide or an accident? The Zambales police have yet to rule on the cause of death of yet another Filipino worker at the Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Philippines Inc. shipyard in Subic, Zambales.

Although Alvior Palma Jr had written on his cell phone's what appeared to be a suicide note, investigators would not declare his death a suicide, said provincial police director Senior Supt. Rolando Felix on Saturday.

The words "Huli na (what) ko. Di's hopeless!" were written with a full stop.

"We have yet to get the results of the autopsy. He haven't talked to his live-in partner or his relatives," Felix said.

The suicide angle had yet to be verified, said Armand Arriza, administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, one of the government agencies regulating labor and operations policies at HANJIN.

Palma, 30, was employed as a painter by an SBMEPI subcontractor, Zambales Piping Corp.

The last time his coworkers saw him was at 6 a.m. on Saturday, Felix said. Palma reportedly told them about a problem with his live-in partner.

At 2 p.m. that day, his body was seen floating on the water near a newly anchored ship, the Lapis, which was berthed at Quay No. 5 of the shipyard, police said.

Palma was wearing his uniform—blue overalls, red shirt and rubber shoes—when he was fished out of the waters, said workers who told the inquirer about the incident.

Tarik Ayan Nur, HHCPI shipyard manager for external trade, said the company had turned over the investigation to the police.

Two other deaths were reported at Hanjin this year: that of Ruldon del Rosario, 39, who died on Jan. 23, and Choi Jong Baek, 49, on Jan. 25.

At least 13 workers have died at the shipyard since 2007, according to the company's tally. Dwarfe Oyales, Inquirer Central Luzon

Horacio F. Nolasco; 81

LAWYER HORACIO F NOLASCO, FORMER director for industrial relations of wig makers Hilton Avenue, died yesterday. He was 81.

He is survived by his wife Cecilia, children Rose, Ruffin and Jopie, Annie, Thomas and Boog, Joy and Boog, Liesl and Noel, Tedi and Noel, and Beeflie and Al, and grandchildren Sarah, Nikki, Kim, Alex, Elizabeth, Douglas and Abi.

The wake will be held from June 7 to 11 at Panorama Pan. Asiatica Avenue, Quezon City.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 8, 2009
10th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 1:1-7
Gospel: Mt 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. Then he spoke and he got to work then:

"Fortunate are those who are poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Fortunate are those who mourn, for they shall be consoled. Fortunate are the gentle, they shall possess the land. Fortunate are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied. Fortunate are the merciful, for they shall find mercy. Fortunate are those with a pure heart, for they shall see God. Fortunate are those who work for peace, they shall be called children of God. Fortunate are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Fortunate are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in Heaven. This is how they persecuted the prophets who lived before you."

Commentary:

It seems certain that the Beatitudes were pronounced directly to the disciples—and, therefore, as Christians, they are directed to us. This was Jesus' longest sermon; it was also the most important. In the Gospels, we have recorded a lot of his teachings, but the Beatitudes are our unmistakable tradition of triple inspirations. The disciples no longer had a place to lay their head. They had no position, no job; they were opposed by the religious and civil leaders, yet they were blessed, because they were the disciples of Jesus. They heard the call and they answered, even if they didn't yet understand what it meant.

We often reject the Beatitudes on practical grounds. *How of we think we could serve them one end, if we could, what would other people think of us?* Then again, if we choose to be Jesus' disciples, that's what we are called to do in the Beatitudes. Jesus gives us eight characteristics of blessed people, which represent the principal graces of a Christian. So, over the next couple of days, we shall be taking time out to reflect upon the wisdom of the Beatitudes, and gain their relevance to our lives in the world, today!

Lamang ang may good memory!

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Ang Senado ng Bayan

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

(April 13 – June 3, 2009)

The Senate of the People, in its Second Regular Session, has enacted several measures designed to protect our people from the effects of the global economic crisis, address the country's socio-economic difficulties and respond to the prevailing challenges in education, health, environmental protection, public safety, consumer protection, employees' welfare, the peace and order situation, among others. For the period April 13 to June 3, 2009 alone, the Senate approved a total of 164 bills such as the following measures:

Economic / Business Reforms and Poverty Alleviation:

- R.A. No. 9593 Tourism Development Act of 2009*
- S. No. 2763 Rice Tariffication Act of 2009**
- S. No. 3008 CARP Extension and Reform***
- S. No. 3157 Competition Act of 2009****
- S. No. 3454 ESS Condonation of Penalties on Delinquent Contributions*****

Education:

- S. No. 3107 Philippine Normal University as the National Center for Teacher Education*
- 99 House Bills naming and renaming schools in the cities of Dumaguete, Cabanatuan, Valenzuela, Marikina, Antipolo and in the provinces of Bulacan, Zambales, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Laguna, Nueva Vizcaya, Mountain Province, Leyte and Surigao del Norte have been approved on 2nd and 3rd Reading.***

Health Promotion:

- S. No. 3330 Universal Newborn Screening and Hearing Act*
- S. No. 2945 Food, Drugs, Cosmetics and Devices Administration Act of 2009***

Family, Health, Women and Children's Welfare and Protection:

- S. No. 3092 Magna Carta of Women**
- S. No. 3111 Legitimation of Children: Rights to Parents Who are Below Marrying Age ***
- S. No. 2956 New Charter of the Bureau of the Philippine Scouts****

Environmental Protection:

- S. No. 3283 Mt. Kitanglad and Mt. Kalatungan Protected Landscape**
- S. No. 3283 Mainstreaming Climate Change into Government Policy Formulations**
- S. No. 3360 Apo Reef Protected Area***
- S. No. 3089 Log Ban in the Third District of Negros Occidental***
- S. No. 3091 Log Ban in the Province of Southern Leyte****

Power Reforms/Electricity Rates Reduction:

- S. No. 2127 EPIRA Amendments***
- S. No. 3283 Lowering of Electricity Rates Through the Reduction of the Government Share from Indigenous Energy Resources****

Reforms in Banking and Financial Services:

- S. No. 2911 Amendment to the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) Charter***
- S. No. 3030 Providing the Regulatory Framework for Real Estate Investment Companies**
- S. No. 3301 Socio-Economic Pump Tax Exemption of Shares of Stock Transactions***

Social Justice & Human Rights Protection:

- S. No. 1974 Anti Torture Act***
- S. No. 3083 Penalizing Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law***
- S. No. 2327 Prohibiting Photo and Video Voyeurism*****
- S. No. 2708 Regional Center for Homelessness and Homelessness Assessment****

Social Services:

- S. No. 3280 Amending the Philippine National Red Cross Charter***
- S. No. 180 Act to encourage the Donation of Food for Charitable Purposes*****

Judicial Reforms:

- S. No. 1422 Additional Branches of the Regional Trial Court in the Province of Bataan***
- S. No. 1939 Six (6) Additional Branches of Metropolitan Trial Courts in the National Capital Region***

OFW and Employees' Welfare, and Regulation of Professions:

- S. J. Res. 32 Salary Standardization Law III for Government's Civilian and Military Personnel**
- S. No. 3246 Amendment to the Migrant Workers Act of 1995****

- S. No. 3361 Strengthening the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel*****
- S. No. 3362 Regulating the Practice of Real Estate Service in the Philippines*

PNP/Uniformed Service Reforms:

- R.A. No. 9502 Extending For Five (5) Years The Reglementary Period For Completing With The Minimum Educational Requirement in the Bureau Of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Bureau Of Jail Management And Penology (BJMP)*
- S. No. 3015 Adjusting the Educational Requirements for Promotion in the Philippine National Police (PNP)**

Public Services, Infrastructure Development and Public Safety:

- 12 House Bills establishing district engineering offices: Ruglo Second District, Sorsogon Second District, Cagayan de Oro City First District, Sultan Kudarat Second District, Misamis Occidental Second District, Reconstructing the Alilay Engineering Office into Three (3) Districts, Cebu Sixth District, Zamboanga Sibugay First District, Iloilo Ninth Third District, Bataan and Nueva Vizcaya Second Engineering District and Tarlac Second District ***

- 13 House Bills converting local roads into national roads*****
- 12 House Bills naming and renaming of roads and bridges*****

- S. No. 1701 Clear Sidewalks Act of 2009*****
- H. No. 5080 Franchise of Converge Information and Communications Technology Solutions, Inc.*****
- H. No. 5085 Franchise of Information Broadcast Limitless, Inc.*****
- H. No. 5146 Franchise of Pinoy Telephone Corporation (PINOYBELCO-IBC)*****
- H. No. 5227 Extending the Franchise of Express Telecommunications Co., Inc.*****
- H. No. 5303 Franchise of Sangkat Broadcasting Corporation*****

LGUs Empowerment and Transparency:

- R.A. No. 9640 Amendment to Section 140 (A) of Local Government Code*
- H. No. 3336 Creating the Municipality of San Jose in the Province of Dinagat Islands***
- S. No. 2303 120th Charter of Depository Banks*****
- S. No. 2518 Amending the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990 (Selection of Police Chiefs)***
- S. No. 3108 120th Passing of Summary of Income and Expenditures***
- S. No. 3270 Amending the Charter of General Santos City*****

Cultural Heritage Promotion and Sports Development:

- S. No. 3227 Amending Batasan Pambansa Bilang 80 to Declare Arnis as a Special National Sport*
- 7 House Bills declaring local holidays in Baliuag, Bulacan; Province of South Cotabato; in Brgy. City, Surigao del Sur; in the Province of Bohol; in Malabon, Laguna; in Victorias City, Negros Occidental; and in Cagayan de Oro City*****

- S. No. 3283 National Holiday for the Observance of Eidul Adha*****
- S. No. 3284 Special Public Working Holiday to Commemorate Lapu-Lapu Day*****
- S. No. 3288 Arnis as the National Martial Art and Sport of the Philippines*****

Legend:

*Enacted into law
**Vetoed / Passed / awaited for approval of the President
***Approved by both Houses/No Bicam Conference
****The Senate approved on Third Reading
*****The Senate approved on Second Reading

"We have to promote an environment of political and economic stability, peace and order and social justice under our democratic system if we are to be worthy of being a Senate of the Filipino people. Despite our individual and political differences, we, as Senators of the People, have shown our strong resolve to unite when the national interest, the common good and the needs of our marginalized citizens are at stake." – *Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile*

"Sa gitna ng iba't-ibang problemang sa pulitika, ekonomiya at lipunan, ang Senado ay nananatiling isa sa mga nakatatag institusyon na dahan-dahan ngunit tiyak na nagbibigay ng kaluwalhatian ng kinabukasan ng mamamayan, lalo na ng mahirap Pilipino. Nakakabuo pa kayo ng patuloy nanaisatili ng isyung Senado ang tinitiwa ng sambayanan sa lahat panahong aming kinakaha, sa lahat lahat na aming pinapasa at sa mga pagdinig na aming isinagawa." – *Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada*

"The Senate of the people continues to send many Filipino amidst the challenges we face as a nation. As global economic crisis and political noise. We in the Senate, together with the people, have shouldest resolve and unwavering commitment to provide a brighter future for our countrymen and to strengthen our democratic institutions." – *Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel F. Zubiri*

"Despite the internal problems, the Senate has passed many laws that address national issues. I need not restate the list, still there is much more to be done to protect the human rights and advance the welfare of our people. I look forward to the resumption of the sessions in July to finish the legislative agenda that we can collectively do for the well-being of the nation before this Congress will lose out of office in 2010." – *Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Q. Pimentel*

"PATULOY NA NAGLILINGKOD ANG INYONG SENADO PARA SA KAPAKANAN NG BAYAN"

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Why Lacson quit–pick a reason

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By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

HE HAD MADE UP HIS MIND since the other Sunday, the eve of his 61st birthday which was on June 3.

"On my hour of hours, I asked myself, 'Will I be able to last in the kind of campaign?'

"Let's be practical and realistic about it, campaigning is a mind (and your soul) if you can't keep up with the others, you will be left behind," said him, Rodolfo Lacson, by way of explaining his abrupt withdrawal from the 2010 presidential derby.

"The premise now is to spend—even if it's still too early—so much money. That's my primary reason... I have nothing to spend—and I pity my supporters who are mostly volunteers," Lacson said in an interview over dzRH radio on Saturday.

He said some volunteers even shelled out their own money but "it's not enough."

Lacson's other reason for bowing out was his "frustration" over the way campaigns and elections are conducted in the country.

Character, competence

"You donotwork as one, hang with Kung-pen's scrapping for or with the bishops, COMELEC-tions for me, if you have no money you have nothing to fight with)," he said.

He said he would support someone with "character" and "competence," and "someone who's not a bobbet."

As for remarks by the vice president, Lacson said, he said that everything was fluid at this point but he wasn't about to make the first move and left it to be picked as tomorrow's morning coffee.

Lacson had announced his intention to run for president in interviews in the Senate last month.

But just before the start of last Friday's televised ABC Leadership Forum at the University of the Philippines, he announced his withdrawal from the race to set a pro-consolidation event, citing the huge expense of waging a nationwide campaign.

Bow to reality

In his words, he "bowed to that reality."

The day before a former subordinate in the Philippine National Police where Lacson once served as director general resurfaced in Manila, promising to reveal all in a double murder case in which Lacson has been implicated.

Former police Supt. Cesar Mancao in an affidavit said that he heard Lacson order another subordinate, then Chief Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, to kill publisher Salvador "Bubby" Dacer in 2000. Dacer's driver, Emmanuel Corbito, was killed along with him.

Lacson has said that he would refrain from commenting on the Mancao affidavit until it has been submitted.

"I don't know," said Lacson's ally and now mate, Sen. Loren Legarda in a phone interview, when asked if the Dacer-Corbito case might be the reason Lacson had switched gears.

She said Lacson had not spoken to her about his plans.

"But at least Senator Lacson will be free to attack the administration since he can't be accused of politicking now," Legarda said.

For Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Lacson, a 1971 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, is "trying to do his best in a bad situation—to protect his flanks and conserve power."

"Unlike in military parlance, in the game of politics, retreat can mean strategic (move)," Pimentel said.

Pimentel also cited "dwindling fund support and "problems with Cesaren, et al," even as Lacson may have dropped out.

Backers abandon him

Businessman Manny Zamora and his brother, Sen. Juan Ponce Ronaldo Zamora, have reportedly left the Lacson camp to join his rival, presidential aspirant Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.

Former Bridgestone Asia Inc. Pro-ports Philippines-turned, saying it was possible that Lacson decided to withdraw after losing his financial backers.

Pichay, who ran for the Senate in 2007 under the administration party but lost despite reportedly having the biggest spending candidate, said he found Lacson's reason for withdrawing credible.

"That could only be a valid reason. The guys who bankrolled his campaign in 2004—the Lacson brothers [Eduardo and Ronaldo]—are no longer supporting him," Pichay said in a phone interview.

He said Manny and Ronnie Zamora were supporting Villar while Buddy was throwing his lot with Sen. Mar Roxas, Pichay said.

"It's easy to see he president. But when you start to look into your pockets, it's very difficult. In the presidential candidates solicit contributions from businessmen. In the end, they are indebted to businessmen," he said.

INQUIRER

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Gov't seizes cruise ship for nonpayment of taxes

By Marlon Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance (DOF) has ordered the forfeiture of a P1.03-million luxury cruise ship which the Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized after its owner allegedly failed to pay P.03 million in import duties.

Finance Undersecretary Zenaida Ducut issued the forfeiture order on the MV 7,107 Islands Cruise, after denying a motion for reconsideration filed by the vessel's owner, Interisland Shipping Corp.

In a statement, Ducut said the cruise ship arrived in the country in October 2007 without an import entry permit since its owner claimed the craft would only be undergoing repairs at the Port of Batangas.

"However, documents showed that the vessel was actually brought into the country to deliver it to the buyer in the person of Mr. Dylan Iaugh," she said.

Sales explained that only vessels brought into the country for repair, processing or remanufacturing were exempt from import taxes under the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

Shortly after it was recovered, Task Force Lubang reportedly used the five-deck ship to take prosecutors on expensive cruises to visit beaches in Luzon.

"Had for almost two years now, the vessel remained in the country operating as a cruise ship [following] its forfeiting. Great is Pulmoni and Idaho in Zambales, without a single centavo paid in customs duties," Sotto said.

Two months before it was seized, BOC-Enforcement and Security Service Director Chief Supt. Jose Mallonguis said the Philippine Coast Guard had monitored the cruise ship hosting the Hearts Mother for Table and Dotwon, "proof that it was being used for business."

"We even had to cut short a private party when we entered the ship at the pier," Pacheng told the reporters.

The 109-meter vessel has 137 cabins, three restaurants and a swimming pool.

Training to tide you over

WITH COMPANIES living off workers as part of streamlining and cost-cutting measures in the wake of the global financial crisis, employees may be let go with a severance package if they are lucky.

This is where a professional transition program may be of help to both workers and companies.

The Center for Productivity Studies (CPS), under the auspices of Informex Foundation, is offering a program through which terminated employees can undergo skills-based training that can immediately use to bring in income while they search for a new job.

The skills include basic bartending, nail care, makeup and service management.

The professional transition program targets two students, according to CPS president Tisha C. Ramirez. Companies that need to offload on the burden of an employee cut caused by redundancy, and employees who can avail themselves of the training.

"Training is considered to a newly processed CSO level. So when we say each laboratory is outfitted with the appropriate equipment and tools.

Instructors consist of lawyers, hairdress appliedions and executives based on practical concepts, with evaluations based on written and practical exams.

Programs range from one to six months.

More information may be obtained by calling 8978888, 8970887, 8918-8970888 or 8917-8970887, e-mailing cps@informex.org, or visiting informexfoundation.org.ph or cps@philippinenet.net.

—Bjhyoshi

INQUIRER
OPINION

Saving our river

IN BICOL TIME, THE PASIG RIVER WAS BOTH ILOG and SILOG. As every college student ought to know, the "ILO" begins with the monastic Tabo's extremely progress up the river, "arduously sailing upstream through the winding course of the Pasig, carrying numerous passengers to the province of Laguna." Following the Tabo, the sound's eye can vividly picture what the mighty river was in the 1800s: a busy thoroughfare, a lively scene, a fertile fishing ground. [The Tabo] "threatens everything in her way, now seeming about to crush the salambaw, stinggy fishing contraptions which in their movements are not unlike sluggish sailing an armadillo-like turtle; now running straight against the bamboo headers to against the floating eating places or kiosks, which among passengers and other flowers, seem like indestructive barbers, their fires already in the water but still undecided on plunging in." (Text taken from the Locsin translation.)

EDITORIAL

Today, there are no indecisive bathers in the Pasig, human or otherwise. Only involuntary ones, or children playing truant, too young to know their life and health are at great risk with every second they spend in the river's squalid waters.

The route of the Tabo retraces the path that Elias and Crisostomo Ibarra took when they escaped to Laguna, to the last chapters of the "Noli." On the boat, they hold their famous several dialogue about the necessity of revolutions, but Rizal characteristically ends their discussions with a burst of lyricism. "Those who have ever made their way by night up the Pasig, on one of those magical nights that the Philippines offers, when the moon pours out from the limpid blue her melancholy light, when the shadows hide the miseries of man and the silence is unbroken by the morbid secrets of his voice, when only Nature speaks—they will understand the thoughts of both these youths." (Text taken from the Derbyshire translation.)

Today, anyone who sailors his or her way by night up the Pasig would be sentenced...not lyricized. To many of the millions who reside in Metro Manila, and to many more who visit the National Capital Region, the Pasig is only a lonesome, turbid current, something one crosses over, to get from one place to another.

This is a pity: the river that made Manila the country's most important center of culture and commerce is now of the most polluted in the world.

Attempts have been made before to clean up the Pasig and restore it to its former place in our affections, of which perhaps the most widely known was the "Clean and Green" campaign of Amelita Ramos, the first lady from 1992 to 1998. "Kapit Bisig Para Sa Pasig" (literally, "Linking arms for the Pasig") is the latest. A project of Ruffy Biazon, it aims to clean up the great river one metro at a time. It also promises to do so with the full encouragement of metro "communities"—many of whom are informal settlers living in shanties built on the river's banks.

A total of 66 families living in Estero de Pues will be relocated to a site called "Bayan ni Juan" in Laguna; this is, in the scheme of things, a small step, but a true breakthrough. It removes a source of the pollution that chokes the river and, at the same time, restores a sense of possibility to people who have lived in inhuman conditions—in shanties made of plywood and tarpaulin, without running water or electricity, reliant on the river as all-purpose trash bin and toilet.

The relocated families will help in the cleanup too, primarily by helping demolish their own shanties. But the private sector will help too, under the leadership of Gina Lopez of the ABS-CBN Foundation. Difficult as the initial stages in the Estero de Pues campaign have been, the real hard work lies ahead: actually cleaning up that part of the river. Lopez has spoken of possibly working with "ten million water experts" or with a New York firm with the "technology [to] transform the sludge that will be dredged from the esteros into organic fertilizer."

Well and good. More private businesses can chip in, by ensuring that the other main source of river pollution—factories and industrial plants sited on the river's banks—stop dirtying the river. Only then can we really look forward to making our way by night up the mighty Pasig.

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Gov't regulatory agencies sleeping on the job

WHAT ARE OUR GOVERNMENT REGULATORY bodies doing? They are supposed to protect the public, the taxpayers who are paying their salaries and allowances, from abuses by private companies, but from the numerous complaints about abuses, it is obvious they are sleeping on the job, waking up only on the 15th and 30th of the month to collect their pay. I will single out the National Telecommunications Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Energy Regulatory Board and the Department of Energy and the Department of Trade and Industry, but I am sure there are many others that are as yet not in the limelight.

The disappearance of prepaid loads from cellphones that last for quite a while time and many have complained to the NTC, but until today (reader Ann Sweet finds himself complained in a privilege speech in the Senate, the NTC would not make up.

Per [illegible] have been going on and off for years, many have lost their life's savings to them, but the SEC has not, until now, done anything to prevent repetitions of the same. Now we have the problem of pre-need firms. They cannot pay the claims of their planholders when they become due. Planholders have bought endowed for these plans, expecting that they would be able to claim them when they need them. But what happened? The pre-need firms gave them excuses instead of funds when they tried to claim what are due them. Until now, the SEC doesn't know what to do.

The oil cartel is obviously stealing from the public and running circles around the DOE and DTI. As soon as crude oil prices rise in the international market, the local oil companies hear voices in their sleep telling them to cover their asses and add nine months for this higher price of as much Philippine refineries. But when prices of crude oil fall, it takes the local oil firms a long time to correspondingly lower their prices, saying they first have to consume their inventory.

The DOE and DTI are supposed to protect the public from such opportunists, but what do they do? They quickly make excuses for the oil firms, even before the firms themselves do, as

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

if they are the lawyers and spokesmen of the oil cartel. Every time the DOE opens its mouth, it is to protect the cartel, even disputing the computations of the National Economic and Development Authority. When Isaka said the local fuel prices are overpriced by 60 a liter, the DOE lost no time in disputing that. It seems the DOE has got its dues wrong. It is protecting the oil companies, not the public.

The DTI is supposed to promote profiteering and to prevent cartels. But we have had for years the oil cartel, the cement cartel, the pharmaceutical cartel, the rice cartel, etc. that have been fleecing the public. But when prices jump, the DTI merely issues press releases suggesting prices for prime commodities and plays to television showing their officials inspecting market stalls. When the senators convict rises in price, the DTI inspectors are off on imported rice items to protect the cartel instead of the consuming public.

The pharmaceutical cartel composed of foreign drug companies and a dragnion chain has been fleecing the sick and has defied Filipinos, but the DTI did nothing. Congress had to pass the Cheaper Medicines Act to provide relief to the public. Still, the cartel has its way. One common ploy was to restrict the small-time generics but, so to turn to brands and limit its inventory of heavy-priced generic drugs. Another ploy is used by Filipino pharmaceutical companies. Go to any Generics Pharmacy branch and you will see that on top of its list of zero-hypertensive drugs is Norvasc, an expensive foreign brand. Strawberry is Benzac brand, which is much cheaper and manufactured locally by Unilab.

Let us go back to the pre-need firms. Planholders are still holding the proverbial empty bag and the SEC seems not to know what to do.

Premises

THERE'S THE RUB

Gonzalo de Quiroz

And no expert will guarantee GMA the spoon, but all he'll get afterward is the bite—cellular.

More importantly if you're the kind who sees one thing and does another, would you trust anyone, man or woman, child or beast, to do otherwise?

Worse, GMA cannot afford to be out of power, and being out of Malacañang is being out of power. The notion that GMA can run for almost position, such as congresswoman of Pampanga, and still wield the same kind of power she does now is laughable. The last of Philippine politics as we know it. Which also means that when a new president comes to power, everyone abandons party affiliations and loyalties to join the new top dog. The only other thing GMA can be after being president is being prime minister.

Hell, the poorest, 100th can afford to cling to power because—

One, she has the same scale of ambition and the same scale of audacity as Marcos. No Filipino leader after Marcos has shown the same single-mindedness of purpose in seeking and staying in loop power. Not Cory, not Ramos, not Erap. And she has gotten away with it.

No small thanks to people like the Jesuits who refused to join the fanfare for GMA to step down or be ousted at the height of the NBN scandal, thereby denying the public the chance to [illegible] Instead, they became that even Jesuits, she was needed to stay anyway, might as well wait for 2010. Well, if she can be ousted in say as of 2010 without legitimacy or cause, why in hell can't she be ousted in say after 2010 without legitimacy or cause? She only needs to manufacture the first ground, and the rest follows.

Two, neither her son nor both has demonstrated her or herself her like is the longest serving, or longest-running, president of this country without having once been elected president. The first time legally, if not morally, she served one term only. It was enough. Like Marcos, she put manufacturers illegal laws where they are convenient. How else call a law that forbids any public official from testifying against her without her permission but an illegal law? How else call "executive privilege," which is just a rationalized, but no-legal law?

Unlike Marcos, she just ignores laws where they are inconvenient. What can be a more binding law than your own word? She broke her word not to run, and she broke everything else afterward. Someone who is not deterred when ruling illegally today will not be deterred from ruling illegally tomorrow.

Three, she owns Congress and the courts. Because the shift to a parliamentary system in Congress and the Supreme Court and a parliamentary system is a done deal. It has been a decade playing before our eyes. The Cha-cha "debate" in Congress, and it will be a parade playing before our eyes, the Cha-cha "debate" in the Supreme Court. The only thing that will stop proponents are moment, rule is the Supreme Court will declare Cha-cha evil and stop it at the Supreme Court of Public Opinion. Or Public Will.

Four, the public has been apathetic. I myself am convinced that that apathy owes in great part to the public's realization that Cha-cha, out of the belief she will be gone by new year anyway, for which reason that apathy will dissolve once it becomes patent she means to stay. I have little doubt we'll have protests against Cha-cha over the next few weeks, or months, like those of which there are few since in the past...other than in the two Edsas. But the seeming apathy of the public over the last few years will be an added incentive for GMA to share the unthinkable, to share the absence.

More than all of which, there are her continuing machinations that will be clear in due course.

So, you still think we'll have presidential elections next year?

Making sense of 1109

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IN 1986, THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION Miniconstitution, which promised "free" Philippines to remain. "No sooner said than done," Blanco had proclaimed then that the 1973 Constitution had been ratified by the Citizens' Assemblies. Now the number is Resolution 1109.

I will not go so far as Congressman Jesse Robredo charged that the House proceedings have Tuesday night as a gang rape. Attempted gang rape, perhaps. But it was more like a couple-time-of-consummation shooting themselves in the foot, and without their knowing it.

The original intention of the framers was, we are told, to force a confrontation in the Supreme Court. Driven mind-first by deepest unpleasantness have really been to extend the term of elective officials and especially of a President. And never mind what evil genius, if any, was really manipulating the puppets. But the sponsors of 1109 forgot that the first requisite for judicial review by the Supreme Court is the existence of an actionable case. The Supreme Court is not an advisory body or an institutional yoga to release perplexed public officials can go to have their insecurities allayed. The Court is a judicial body whose only power is to resolve right or actual conflicts by due process of law. Constitution. Only Oliver Linano or he has succumbed to the temptation to usurp the time of the Court.

By votes won last Tuesday night, during a recess characterized, according to opposition, by "great exercise," the House approved Resolution 1109 calling for the Senate to act on its resolution unfavorably. The debate was solemn and civilized, but the outcome was unclear and unconstitutional.

Unclear. There were three sponsors of the Resolution who did not seem to agree on what they were sponsoring. One sponsor constantly supported the view that the House could include the Senate from the amendatory process. Two others seemed to say that whatever the House approved would be passed on to the Senate for course

CONTINUED ON PAGE A16

O.B.-jections

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

"ALEA IACTA EST! THE DIE IS CAST," WAS HOW A concerned Datuan hailed former ranking army officer recalled all those in his mailing list hours after the House majority hastily passed a resolution to nonviolate as is constituent assembly and to amend the 1987 Constitution. "We will know that our fears reached the point of no return when the naked and vicious power of the transitional ... in Congress will be strapped upon us by converting Resolution as a constituent assembly. Only then will it be time to inform those in the world that the voice of the people in the supreme law," he said, expressing dogma in the manner the pro-administration congressmen unleashed the passage of the Con-ass.

The same fears were also expressed by lawmakers who attended a multi-sectoral forum last Saturday organized by the Bishops' Ministerial Against Charter Change (People' March). There women and celebrities are swallowed by the last three all three CC-opponents: Senate Loren Legarda (Liberal) and Representative Bayan Celdran (Liberal) and Representative Bayan Celdran (Liberal) and Representative Bayan Celdran

'A charade of words and deeds'

LETTERS

A TOTALLY HOMELESS ACT—THIS HOstage by no discussion of House Resolution 1109 convening Congress in a constituent assembly to amend the 1987 Constitution. The resolution was rammed down the throats of the 80 million people by the UNanimous number of Mindanaoan Arroyo's mobilized lapdogs in the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Prospero Nograles. The passage of the resolution was preceded by a charade of words and deeds calculated to distract and mislead the public and cover up the ultimate objective of precipitating life history and her lapdogs in power.

The charade began with Mr Arroyo's recent announcing their intention to join the presidential and vice presidential race in 2010. followed by the usurper of labor and Kampi. Last the people had to get the message, Mr Arroyo and her servants—Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio—proclaimed these events in the best, carefully worded, proof that elections would take place in 2010, implying that Mr Arroyo would quietly leave office at the end of her term.

Speaker Nograles then pushed for the approval of a seemingly innocuous bill calling for the amendment of specific economic provisions of the Constitution. At the same time, the author of HR 11498, and one of Mr Arroyo's most valid lapdogs in the House, Rep. Luis Villafuerte, made a big show of withdrawing to author of the resolution, announcing that his name had been kept, dead. Your fool was out on Quarry charge, he said; we, here, he said, the 2010 elections would push through. And the Crusader joined the mantra.

And then, the coup by acclamation on the night of June 2, and suddenly, the moribund HR 11498 was reborn, risen like Lazarus, mocking all those naysays shouting that majority of the people do not want Charter change at this time, and defying all those who say that you cannot initiate Charter change in the manner contemplated by HR 1109 without the houses voting as a separate chamber. Mr Arroyo would not be denied. Her drive to stay in power—through Charter change, or as a holdover president if elections are not held on, if everything else fails, by martial law as feared by many—appears to be in full swing.

By forcing the approval of HR 11498, Mr Arroyo and her lapdogs have thrown down the gauntlet. And they have done so, obviously believing that the people will not pick it up or, if they do, that the might of the military and the police—as the device once assured her session at the Cotabato—will take care of any disorder in the streets.

We will see.

—CARLOS SANTOS-ORTEZ

BNPP 'counter-argument' rebutted

WE READ WITH MUCH INTEREST Rene Jimenez David's recent column titled "A counter-argument on nuclear power." (Inquirer, 6/3/09) The column extracted the arguments of Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco in defense of Bataan #2's 600 rotting for the "immediate rehabilitation and commissioning" of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). Much has been written in the media about the proposed legislation, including Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes' reservation about the Philippines' lack of technical capacity to run such a plant and the lack of community support.

With the Philippine economy contracting, we question the urgent need for more energy at this time. As to the claim that nuclear power is the cheapest, the fact simply does not support such a contention: consider, for instance, the cost of importing uranium, refurbishing a plant to current standards and unplugging a week from of foreign technicians to operate the facility.

No new nuclear plants have begun operating in France for a decade, and France needs to support an increasing supply of energy from Germany where renewable energy such as wind, solar and geothermal are becoming more prominent. In order for Germany even nuclear power industry alive, France needs to build plants abroad. A French plant under construction in Finland will be years late after incurring many cost overruns, according to a May 29 article in The New York Times.

We need to remember that the BNPP was mothballed in 1986 over concerns about its safety, including construction shortcuts and the sea itself. The BNPP is located inside an earthquake zone on the slope of a volcano. As David pointed out in his column, the plant is located on a volcano whose slope coincidentally fall of the province of Bataan. Cojuangco throws a dazzling bait of underspending of the geological hazards posed by the BNPP.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has not given the BNPP a "clean bill of health," as was claimed in the David column. Further, the IAEA Staff Report of July 2008 recommends a rigorous study that has yet to be undertaken.

As for the P130-million study that David mentioned, this is buried deep in the bill, in Sec. 23. It is the only part of the bill with a specific dollar or appropriation, apart from this section, Congress is being asked to vote on a high-risk project with unknown costs when fund-intensive the call for a feasibility study in Sec. 23 contradicts the rest of the bill.

Before we vote on any part of this bill can be intelligently discussed, there must first be a feasibility study that, as Sec. 23 states, will consider alternative uses for the BNPP as well as the scientific studies that were conducted before and after the plant was mothballed in 1986. We would also insist that any feasibility study should be conducted by an independent body that would include representatives from the affected communities and the civil society sector.

—CHRISTIANNE BONGLES, vice president, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 11 Horizontal St., Kamuning, Diliman, Quezon City 1100

Tanduay 1854 Rum
Monde Selection
2009 Gold Medal
2008 Silver Medal
2007 Gold Medal
2006 Gold Medal

Once again, Tanduay does the country proud by winning six medals in the 2008 Monde Selection held in Brussels, Belgium. All Tanduay entries won a medal each, with Tanduay 1854 Rum, Cossack Vodka, Barcelona Brandy, Tanduay White Premium Rhum and Tanduay Primero (Ron 8 Años) winning gold medals while Gin Kapitan garnered a silver, from the oldest and most respected organization in the field of quality selections worldwide.

TANDUAY WINS
5 GOLDS
&
1 SILVER
AT THE 2009 MONDE SELECTION

155 years in business;
140 awards won and still counting...

TANDUAY White
Monde Selection
2009 Gold Medal
2008 Gold Medal
2004 Gold Medal
1987 Gold Medal
1982 Bronze Medal

Concours Mondial
2008 Silver Medal

Int'l. Wine & Spirit
1983 Silver Medal
1982 Bronze Medal

Cossack Vodka
Monde Selection
2009 Gold Medal
2008 Int'l. High Quality Trophy
2008 Gold Medal
2007 Gold Medal
2006 Gold Medal
1988 Gold Medal
1983 Gold Medal
1982 Gold Medal
1981 Gold Medal

Concours Mondial
2008 Silver Medal

Int'l. Wine & Spirit
2007 Silver Medal
1983 Silver Medal
1982 Bronze Medal
1981 Silver Medal

TANDUAY Primero
(Ron 8 Años)
Monde Selection
2009 Gold Medal
2008 Silver Medal
2007 Gold Medal
2006 Gold Medal

Barcelona Brandy
Monde Selection
2009 Gold Medal
2008 Gold Medal
2007 Silver Medal
2006 Silver Medal

Tanduay was also recently recognized by Superbrands, Inc. as one of the top brands in the Philippines. The Superbrands Council is composed of luminaries from the field of branding, marketing and advertising.

155 years. 140 international awards. Superbrands status. All of these achievements affirm Tanduay's commitment to the upholding of the Filipino Spirit of dedication, hard work and discipline by its unending journey towards product excellence.

Gin Kapitan
Monde Selection
2009 Silver Medal
2008 Silver Medal
2007 Silver Medal
2006 Silver Medal
2004 Silver Medal

People will laugh at JC

I'D LIKE TO SAY MY piece about Raquel, one's presidential candidate, John Carlos "JC" Gordon De los Reyes, today was the subject of conversation by the 3PM 11 times of the HOUSE.

While De los Reyes is entitled to argue to increase the nation's political independence, he should be advised first in pursuing so, he might end up as the laughingstock of the Philippines.

Since he first ran for Congress, Gov. considered luck, in 1995, the Gordon political machinery was used to serve him his first taste of victory as a silver platter. Although he represented Zambales in the last elections, De los Reyes was voted back by the local electorate to the city council because he was adopted by the party of his uncle, Mayor Jaime "Dong" Gordon. In the town became his is a Gordon. If De los Reyes can make the honors of Napoleon, an unknown political party in the city and probably the province, he would have suffered the same drubbing as that of the party other candidates.

Perhaps the other members of the five-dow class are squirming in shame over a relative who has to claim trust to be of the city's better families.

If De los Reyes wants to climb his own Mt Sinai with the slogan Kapitan to Harps, he should first ask himself: What has he accomplished so far to city constituents? The guy, who failed to land in the No. 1 slot of the 18 members city council but who is now salivating for the country's No. 1 perch, would now win in Olongapo if he decides to run for mayor.

For now JC can keep his crowd "turned down" to himself by keeping mum to his word, silencing the last confidence of people who feel betrayed by his uncle by standing his broken promise with his voice of love.

—CHARLES ROBLES
MOUNTAINEER, Olongapo, admin1@olnet.com

Across the NATION

Woman escapes from Sayyaf captors

"I WALKED for almost six hours," says Patria.

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE THOUGHT OF HER baby daughter kept her believing that someday, she would escape from her Abu Sayyaf kidnappers. On Saturday night, Leah Patria finally did.

Patria, 29, was still having a hard time recounting her ordeal when she faced reporters on Sunday, but she insisted that all the thought of during her captivity of more than four months was her daughter.

"Iyon ang naglipay labas at inspirasyon sa akin na maging matatag at makatakas (She was the one who gave me strength and inspiration to be firm and to escape)," she said.

Patria and two other kidnapees, Ahmad Sidi Elang and Rodina Mujalia, were held trapped in Sumisip town on Feb. 1. They are followers of the secessionist Moro Reformasyon Fundamento Inc.

Mujalia escaped during the abduction while Elang was freed on Feb. 6.

Breaking that her six abductors had eleven hours feeling tired the past two weeks, Patria planned her escape.

"Sabihin na, hihi ka at sarili ng eto na ang pagkakataon ko (I told it to God. I told myself this was my chance)," Patria said.

On Saturday night, when her captors went to "deep sleep" at 8 p.m., Patria placed all her belongings—papers, bags, shoes and even a watch—in one bundle—in her homework. She, she said, was to give the impression that she was asleep.

Leaving her slippers under the hammock, Patria walked barefoot to freedom.

Basilan Vice Gov. Al Rasheed Sakkalahi said Patria walked for five hours.

An old man, whom Sakkalahi identified as Hadji Kuad Pektar asking for help, Hadji brought her to the house of Sumisip Mayor Hubert Ismael in Barangay Manggal.

"Sa sigaw kindi ko talaga alam kung ano ang dapat pagdaanan. Hindi pa rin ako makapaniwala na nakaya ko ako. Parang nanaginip pa ako. (At this time, I really don't know what to think. I still could not believe that I am free. It's like I'm dreaming)," Patria said.

Basilan Gov. Jum Akbar and authorities were discussing how to ensure the two remaining kidnap victims in the province—Wendel Noble and Ronnie Sagucio, both fishermen from Tabuan town.

Brig. Gen. Rustico Guerrero, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade in the area said, the government's monitor operations had put pressure on the kidnappers.

"We learned that most of the captives were dead and we presume that Patria evolved it and she really took advantage of it," Guerrero said.

He said Patria's kidnappers were led by Amir Mingkeng and Bernardo Abugan. Adiz C. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Recruiter hunted for defrauding 25 job seekers

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

FARMERS camped in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform office in Quezon City plan even more in front of Hacienda Luisita to protest Noynoy Aquino's first 100 days in office. (INQUIRER PHOTO)

Cops nab suspect in slay of Sumilao farmer leader

Red Cross volunteer shot dead

2 suspected dog traders held in Negros

Puno says Malampaya royalty case difficult

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Chief Justice Reynato Puno said on Saturday that the Supreme Court would postpone the oral arguments scheduled for Tuesday on the case filed by three national government agencies contesting Palawan's right over the Camago-Malampaya gas reservoir off northwest Palawan.

The solicitor general, who is taking up the case for three executive departments—budget, energy and finance—has sought the postponement of the oral arguments, even as Puno acknowledged that the case is "difficult" to rule upon.

"It is not an easy case. It is a case that involves very difficult issues and because there are foreign dimensions to the issues that are to be resolved," said Puno, who was in Palawan to launch his second campaign sortie.

The court would consult all parties first before deciding on another date for the oral arguments before resolving the case that has dragged for three years, Puno explained.

Filed by the national government, the case involves a set of legal questions, all pertaining to whether Palawan is entitled to royalties from the Malampaya natural gas project which has generated close to P30 billion so far in gross income since the project began in 2002.

Under Section 290 of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code, Palawan should be entitled to a share of 40 percent of gross collection derived by the national government, pursuant to the constitutional mandate that the state shall equitably share with local government units the proceeds from the development and utilization of the country's natural resources.

The Arroyo administration has insisted that the position taken by the preceding Ramos administration recognizing Palawan's claim over the reserves and his questioned the province's political jurisdiction over the gas fields located some 80 kilometers off the northern municipality of El Nido.

One of the key issues that the Supreme Court will resolve is whether Administrative Order No. 161 issued by then President Fidel Ramos remains in force.

The overriding legal question, however, remains to be the territorial boundary of Palawan, which the national government continues to limited to 23 km offshore as defined under the Fisheries Code.

For its part, the provincial government cites RA 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan, which describes the territorial boundaries of the province as including the gas reserves.

The Department of Energy, under the then Secretary Raphael Lotilla, had argued that the Camago-Malampaya gas field lies within the Philippine territory but is outside the political jurisdiction of Palawan.

Pending the final conclusion of the case, both the provincial and the national government have now agreed to jointly keep a portion of the disputed revenue which allowed the provincial government to receive an initial amount of $3.6 million to be spent for local projects. Roderick Avala, Inquirer Southern Luzon

TWO CRESTED eagle was released to the wild from the Makiling Forest Center in Los Baños, Laguna, during the World Environment Day. NESTOR CRUZ/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

22 raptors returned to Makiling wild

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—AT LEAST 22 raptors that were wounded and kept for years at the Center for Philippine Raptors have been released back into the rainforests of Mount Makiling on Friday in observance of World Environment Day.

The birds were released by the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems (MCME) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños and the municipal government.

The 11th Philippine Eagle Week is also celebrated on June 4-13, as well as the Month of Mountains, said Roberto Cuenca, deputy director of the MCME, which is in charge of the Makiling forest reserve.

One crested serpent eagle named Lawagan and 20 Philippine Hawk Owls (known as kuwit) were released at the Makiling Botanic Garden at the foot of the mountain.

"We call it the soft release, which is done by simply opening the cage and allowing the birds to set off on their own," Cuenca said.

At 5:30 p.m., 11 Philippine boys (set) were also set to be released.

"If you release them in the morning, the owls will just sleep in front of you," Cuenca said of the nocturnal species.

The three species are referred to as raptors or birds of prey. They are birds eating birds with large, hard beaks and talons that are used to catch food, said Michael Sanchez, a caretaker at the Raptors Center.

The center had released 16 recent raptors from 2006 to 2008.

A pair of owls will be released in Bay and Calauan towns on June 13 and a number of Brahminy Kites in Calamba City on June 18, Cuenca said.

"It is illegal to keep the bird or any wildlife (species)," Sanchez said, except those approved under the Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Act.

Cuenca said illegal bird shooting

CONQUERING THE WIND
This boatman from Barangay Salvacion Poblacion in Tuguegarao, Cagayan has been trying to conquer the wind in San Miguel Bay before he could reach his destination.

House OKs new Baguio charter

BAGUIO CITY—ANOTHER CHARTER change measure has passed the House of Representatives, but its impact will only affect the economy of the summer capital.

On third reading, the chamber approved House Bill No. 2815, which included amendments to the 1909 municipal charter of Baguio City, said Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan on Sunday.

[illegible] Supreme Court Justice George Malcolm has been credited for the 1909 Baguio charter, which institutionalized the new city designed and built by the American colonial government.

Domogan said he was waiting for the House to transmit the measure to the Senate for its counterpart.

"I was hoping for a new charter by Sept. 1 (the official Baguio centennial celebration), but we may have a law passed by November," he said.

The final version of the new Baguio charter retains the spirit of the original document, Domogan said.

Taking up a suggestion from the Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG), Domogan filed HB 2815, which revised and modernized the city charter to correct the city's boundary from the 48.6 square kilometers set in 1909 to its current 57.49 sq. km.

But the new charter's main objective is to grant to the city government full control of public land sales.

The 1909 charter designated Baguio as a town site reservation, which meant that its alienable lands may be envisioned off only to applicants for a Bliss Maceda-based [illegible] form.

Baguio is the only active town site in the Philippines among the reservations of its kind created by the American colonial government in 1907.

The measure transfers to the city government the land titles to all public lands, making it the direct administrator of these properties.

The new charter requires the city government to refile applicants who claimed occupancy those lands lots, discarding property [illegible] as applicants.

But the charter-change initiative also faced opposition.

Many dwellers and activists said the new Baguio charter encouraged evictions and squatting.

The Baguio community also declared its opposition, saying it would disenfranchise them. —Vincent Cabreza, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

RPA-ABB IN NEGROS

Gov't exec fears violence between 2 rebel factions

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

KABANKALAN CITY—THE GOVERNMENT IS MEdiating between two factions of the breakaway Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) over rumors that skirmishes between them could turn violent and derail their peace pact with the government.

Presidential Assistant for Western Negros Raul Bacalso said he would meet separately with leaders of the factions tomorrow after their members traded accusations over local radio stations of alleged crimes and attacks against each other.

Bacalso said the government was concerned that the conflict between the armed factions could escalate.

"We will try to help settle their differences," Bacalso said in a phone interview on Saturday.

The RPA-ABB broke away from the mainstream Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) over ideological differences in 1995, shortly after the CPP launched its "reaffirmation movement" to correct major political errors that the CPP claimed caused major setbacks in the 1980s and early 1990s.

On Dec. 26, 2008, the RPA-ABB entered into a peace agreement and a cessation of hostilities with the government shortly before the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

In 2007, the breakaway group was further splintered into one led by Allan de la Cruz and the other by Ruperto Occidental-based Stephen Palisoc, alias Leopoldi Lualhati, RPA-ABB national commander and Negros Occidental Tabaco, secretary general of its political wing, Bebelyn Lumayag Peddit ng Mangggagawa-Oliginia (MPM-P).

The factions have competed charges of violation of organizational processes and usurpation of authority, and now organizational funds.

The worsening rift was raised during a meeting of the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) of Western Visayas last week.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, who attended the meeting, said the issue was being addressed to assert violence and to ensure that the peace agreement would hold.

Under the peace agreement with the government signed in December 2008, 1,101 local officials and members of the RPA-ABB were allowed to carry short firearms as designated as an. But several of its members were caught by soldiers during the 2007 election campaign period with high-powered firearms.

Bacalso said a major issue was the question of who should the government recognize as the official representative of the RPA-ABB, especially in implementing projects. Sources both factions were claiming to be the legitimate one.

The government, through the Department of Defense, is implementing a P400-million worth of economic development projects in 30 villages in Western Negros.

The 30 barangays (21 in Pamo and 14 in Bergen Occidental) were determined by the RPA-ABB and validated by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and Bantay office. Each received P7.4 million in development projects.

Relief of Boracay cop chief opposed

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

KALIBO CITY—AT LEAST 1,000 RESIDENTS, officials and business operators in Boracay are protesting the relief of the island's police chief and four of his men over a botched drug raid on the world-famous resort involving a businessman identified only as President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Their petition to Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Versoza called for the retention of Supt. Arnold Anthony and four other members of the Boracay Special Tourist Police Office (BSTPO).

It decried the relief of the policemen effective May 25 and their transfer to the PNP Training Service at Camp Pedro Penduko in Batangas to undergo a month-long "Values and Leadership Course."

"... What happened to Anthony and his investigating team [is] an injustice and pure harassment of people with undue power and influence," the petitioners said.

They said that if not corrected, the relief would set a precedent that could hamper police work in responding to local conditions on the island.

Reason

Anthony was relieved after he led the arrest and detention of two security guards of Winsen Holdings Philippines Inc. who allegedly shot and wounded two workers of Back Total Jacksville on May 18.

Jacksville claimed that the property was titled to Jun Donaly. His sisters from the Tirol clan which is among the few land occupants with titled properties in Boracay.

Her workers were pulling up a fence on the property when they were attacked, according to a report of the BSTPO.

Winsen Holdings filed a complaint before the Police Regional Office against the arresting policemen for alleged partiality, tampering of evidence, illegal arrests and arbitrary detention.

The ban is chaired by businessman Rodrigo Herrera II., who also heads the "Tabay ng Bagong Pilipinas" program of President Macapagal-Arroyo and is founding chair of the Kawanga Foundation, an offshoot of the Kawanga Body-Jet fleet vessels. Jun Fleet Gustilo and's younger sister Ms. Lourdes Arroyo as its representative in Congress.

Chief Supt. Augusto Cuevas, regional police director, said Anthony was relieved because he "mismanaged" the operations in settling the suspects in the shooting.

Anthony detained the suspects and filed the complaint even though the police did not catch them while committing a crime or were in pursuit operation in accordance of police procedures, he said.

Also ordered relieved were PO2 Andrew Jared Jr., investigator, and Police Officers 1 Jaymar Acosta, Eugene Delino and Harold Quimzon Jr.

Denial

Anthony denied that he and his men were partial to any of the parties and manipulated the arrest and detention of the suspects.

"I was only doing my job," he told the Inquirer in an earlier interview.

Sangguniang Bayan Gutlo, president of the Boracay Landowners and Stakeholders Association Inc., said her group was targeting 5,000 signatures for the petition.

"We do not want a disorganized police force who were unjustly punished for doing their jobs," Gutlo said in a phone interview on Sunday.

The Boracay Foundation, a group of owners of resorts and hotels on the island, will issue a separate resolution questioning the relief of the policemen, according to its president, Lucbelle Garcia.

"We are concerned over the impact of the order to our peace and order situation here," Garcia said in a phone interview.

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Newspaper A1

Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

Former President Joseph Estrada and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay are also considered presidential hopefuls.

Lack of funds, Mueroan

Lacson announced on Friday that lack of funds forced him to withdraw from the presidential race.

A presidential candidate must spend P2 billion to P4 billion to bankroll a national campaign, Villar said in March. That amount, he said, would not even ensure one's victory.

Lacson's announcement came a day after veteran police officer returned from the United States to become a state witness in the investigation of the 2000 murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corpuz.

Former Senate Sen. Gringo Honasan has implicated Lacson in the murders. Lacson has denied any role in the killings.

Faring poorly in surveys

Macapagal-Arroyo's chance of being charged in the killings, Lacson is doing poorly in surveys. Getting only 4 percent, he trailed De Castro (16 percent), Escudero (17 percent), Estrada (18 percent), Villar (19 percent) and Roxas (23 percent) in the Pulse Asia survey last month of voters' preferred presidential candidates.

Interviewed over radio station dzBB, Angara said Lacson's decision was expected.

"It's possible that it's not only (Lacson) (who will pull) out from the race," said Angara, head of the once dominant Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

In a phone interview, Legarda said that next year, there would be three candidates for president at the minimum, and four or five at the maximum.

Unrealistic

Legarda said the present list of presidential hopefuls was "unrealistic."

Other personalities will drop the idea of running for president in May 2010 not only because of limited resources but also because of ambitions and margins, she said.

Asked how serious she was about seeking the presidency, Legarda, whose rating in the Pulse Asia survey dropped five points to 7 percent in May from 12 percent in February, said she would soon make an announcement on her plans.

She said she could go around the country and consult the people only in July because she still had to meet her commitments as the United Nations, including speaking at the meeting of the UN Secretary General in Geneva on June 15.

Legarda earlier said she would not be president next year.

Romance

In a separate phone interview, Lacson told his text "very evasive" in seeking the presidency and in serving the people.

"The Liberal Party will participate in [the] 2010 [elections]," said Roxas, the party's president.

But survey numbers have been improving since he announced on a newsletter TV show in April that he would marry broadcaster Korina Sanchez.

Roxas acknowledged that his romance with Sanchez was a factor in the boost he got from the Pulse Asia survey.

He has been spending heavily on TV ads.

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Why fear GMA?

From page A1

"The opposition has always been saying that (the President is unpopular, that) (she) does not have the support of the people, yet today are they afraid that (the President will run)?" Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said.

"We are not saying that the President will run, but why are they creating this (scenario)?"

Opposition fears that Ms Arroyo would latch on to power gained with the passage by the House of Representatives of a constituent assembly (ConAss) resolution that her critics say would enable her to hang on to Malacañang, maybe as a prime minister—unless stopped by the Supreme Court.

The congressional action came while Ms Arroyo was away on a visit to Russia.

Not on the agenda

On Thursday, Ms Arroyo will convene the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac), but the issue of Charter change will not be on the agenda, according to Gabriel Gazaldo, her political adviser.

Claudio said the main topic would be "economic and revenue measures proposed by the ghost gatosky upon resumption of (Congress's) session to enhance the economy's revenue-raising and enabling."

Remonde tried to distance Mr Arroyo from House Resolution No. 1109 setting up a constituent assembly to amend the Charter.

He claimed "the authors of (our Followers) or allies or people identified with you are (the) ones ascribed to the leader, even if (that's) not the case."

"That is really part of the burden of leadership," Remonde said. "It is obvious that because of the political season, it is very convenient to demonize the administration."

Politically expedient

Remonde said a planned rally against Charter change (Cha-cha) on Wednesday, apparently backed by the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), was "part of the dynamics of democracy."

But he insisted that Malacañang did not "initiate" the resolution and said no less than Mr Arroyo herself had said the administration was preparing for next year's elections.

Remonde said political and economic reforms through Cha-cha were tailored part of Mr Arroyo's agenda. But he said this did not mean the administration was bent on lifting term limits.

He said it was politically expedient for the opposition to make it appear that reforms would involve the extension of Mr Arroyo's term.

"By doing so, they are demonizing the President, they are making the administration look bad in an attempt to gain 'pogi' points," he said.

Challenge to GMA

Sen. Loren Legarda challenged Ms Arroyo to declare congressional allies in Iloilo bid to amend the Constitution by themselves.

"If I were (the President), I will tell my allies to step it," Legarda said in a phone interview. "I dare her to take a firm stand lest she be judged (but she is behind it."

The senator, a presidentiable aspirant, urged Ms Arroyo to "listen to the people" to the needs of the people, with many groups, including Catholic bishops, now calling for peaceful demonstrations against the Cha-cha resolution.

Legarda expressed the belief that congressmen were out to "rob" the Supreme Court when they passed the controversial resolution.

She said the framers of the Constitution only wanted to make "responsible and dependable" the lawyer-administrators.

Too late for Cha-cha

Sen. Edgardo Angara said he did not believe there was a need to pressure Mr Arroyo into telling her allies in the House to stop its Cha-cha drive.

He said he believed it was too late for congressmen to push for Cha-cha at this time.

For one, he said the political season had started early and presidential candidates could now file their certificates of candidacy as early as next November, rather than in February next year. With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

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ELEMENTARY LEVEL

RANK	SUBJECT				
	MATHEMATICS	ENGLISH	SCIENCE	FILIPINO	HEKASI
1st	Bolabon Elem. School Sto. Domingo District	Bolabon Elem. School Sto. Domingo District	Bolabon Elem. School Sto. Domingo District	Bolabon Elem. School Sto. Domingo District	Tinapon Elem. School Rapu-Rapu East District
2nd	Fidel Surtida Elem. Sch. Sto. Domingo District	Panarayon Elem. Sch. Bacacay East District	Alcala Elem. School Daraga North District	Sta. Cruz Elem. Sch. Polangui North District	Tinablokan Elem. Sch. Jovellar District
3rd	Oas North Central Sch. Oas North District	Matacon Elem. Sch. Polangui South District	Sogod Elem. School Bacacay East District	Busay Elem. School Daraga North District	Malobago Elem. Sch. Manito District
4th	Pantao Elem. School Libon West District	Agol Elem. School Pioduran West District	Villa Petrona Elem. Sch. Libon West District	Lidong Elem. School Sto. Domingo District	Busay Elem. School Daraga North District
5th	Bacong Elem. School Ligao City	Fidel Surtida Elem. Sch. Sto. Domingo District	Doña Mercedes E. S. Guinobatan West District	San Roque Elem. Sch. Polangui South District	Fidel Surtida Elem. Sch. Sto. Domingo District
6th	Bascaran Elem. School Daraga South District	Alcala Elem. School Daraga North District	Fidel Surtida Elem. Sch. Sto. Domingo District	Manambo Elem. School Oas South District	San Roque Elem. Sch. Polangui South District
7th	Ibaugan Elem. School Daraga South District	San Roque Elem. Sch. Polangui South District	Busay Elem. School Daraga North District	San Isidro Elem. Sch. Libon East District	Cullat Elem. School Oas South District
8th	Busay Elem. School Daraga North District	Busay Elem. School Daraga North District	San Vicente Elem. Sch. Libon East District	Sula Elem. School Bacacay West District	Sula Elem. School Bacacay West District
9th	Salvacion Elem. School Polangui South District	Buga Elem. School Libon West District	Tinapon Elem. School Rapu-Rapu East District	Alcala Elem. School Daraga North District	Tabog Elem. School Oas South District
10th	San Vicente Elem. Sch. Libon East District	Manambo Elem. School Oas North District	Tinablokan Elem. Sch. Jovellar District	Fidel Surtida Elem. Sch. Sto. Domingo District	Maproong Elem. School Oas South District

SECONDARY LEVEL

RANK	SUBJECT				
	MATHEMATICS	ENGLISH	SCIENCE	FILIPINO	ARALING PANLIPUNAN
1st	Magpanambo High School, Polangui	Magpanambo High School, Polangui	Bicol Regional Science High School, Ligao City	Pinto National High School, Polangui	Magpanambo High School, Polangui
2nd	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Pantao National High School, Libon	Legazpi City High School Legazpi City	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Rawis High School Legazpi City
3rd	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Magpanambo High School Polangui	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Pinto National High School, Polangui
4th	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Legazpi City High School, Legazpi City
5th	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Bicol Regional Science High School, Ligao City
6th to 10th	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.	Cut-off is 70% Ave.

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DepED JCI LEGAZPI DAVIES

Solons warn vs martial law option

From page A1

detainees the hurried passage by Mr. Arroyo's allies of House Resolution No. 1109 that would allow the administration-controlled chamber to convene itself into a constituent assembly—if Con-ass even without the Senate's participation.

Opponents of HR 1109 fear the Con-ass would lift the term limits of incumbents and pave the way for Mr. Arroyo and her allies to hold on to power beyond May 2010.

"If convened [con-ass] is a possibility if the decision is instigated by those who have ill motives in pushing for Con-ass," the Liberal Party's Toledo said in a text message.

'Expect the worst'

"If we uphold the hell-ready for the 1944 government of Japan [Emperor Hirohito] level, 'We this government is frolic-friendly. Bye, let us expect the worst scenario," Bayan Muna's Ocampo said.

Ocampo said the call of Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president Angel Lagdameo to avoid violence in the 12 postponed rallies "should be heeded to prevent Mendanaoing from using it to unleash [a] violent martial law."

Casilao, also of Bayan Muna, said he feared the worst and his advisers were "seriously toying with the idea of martial rule under the defective 1987 constitution that only can save the country now."

"Like [in] the Marcos era, the forces of evil dominate the corridors of Malacañang. Only people power can save the Republic," Casilao said in a text message.

Bacolod-per City's Bistoc said someone in the government must tell Con-ass "still-ready further being the political atmosphere to the brink."

"If they want to prevent political upheaval, they should abandon the pursuit of Cha-cha via Con-ass—an hour, of course, if Dark endpoint is to create a vacuum of political chaos to serve as a basis for drastic measures by hidden cabal."

No to adventurism

Solicitor Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. warned soldiers against taking part in demonstrations to protest the House measure, or joining plots to overthrow the government.

Teodoro issued the reminder after Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, said soldiers and officers may join such mass actions.

"Military adventurism is a thing of the past and those contemplating destabilization moves against the duly constituted authority will have to face the consequences of their actions," he said in a statement.

Teodoro said the AFP uses a professional organization and soldiers should remain nonpartisan and loyal to the chain of command at all times.

He added: "The AFP is committed to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law."

Senator Ramon en Friday said that detained Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim's call to action last week was "an indiscretion" that should not be disregarded as some soldiers may already regarding anger over the passage of HR 1109.

From the detention cell at Camp

Crame, Lim urged soldiers to help the people stop the administration from holding on to power beyond 2010.

'We reject anarchy'

Teodoro, who has announced his bid for presidency, has said there is no room in this democratic nation's elections for those who would support Cha-cha but through an elected constitutional convention.

"Those opposed to Cha-cha have every right to take to the streets and air their grievances, but they should keep their protest actions peaceful," he said, apparently referring to civilian groups.

"We cannot allow anarchy to reverse the gains the government's financial managers have achieved amidst the current global economic turmoil."

The military said its monitoring had shown no movements among its units.

Flight nurse, our soldiers are instructed on meeting the deadline to bring to an insignificant level the insurgency in the country next year," AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro is said.

Cauldron heads

Mr. Arroyo, who has been in office now retire to comfort, declared a state of national emergency on Feb. 24, 2006, amid threats by some military officers to withdraw support of her government. She lifted the emergency on February 3.

Bistoc, an independent congressman, reckoned that declaring martial law would be easier than amending the Charter through Con-ass.

"The declaration is in the hands of the President," he said in a text message.

"Congress has up to 60 days to revoke it, affirm or extend it. The people routinely join voting to easier to obtain than Con-ass [where a three-fourths vote of Congress is needed to amend the Charter]."

Pandaqui Rep. Rodolfo Fabian said: couldn't break prevail in the Palace.

"I don't think that's a likely scenario. I believe the Malacañang players are strained," Fabian said.

Set to be withdrew, assume Filipino workers (OFWs) in the Middle East are calling on their relatives in the Philippines to join protests against Cha-cha, including in Middle East, set, alliance of OFW organizations in the region said.

"OFWs and their families already registered their strong voice against Cha-cha right after the presidential election congressmen desperately passed House Resolution No. 1109," the group said.

"Now, we are urging our relatives back home to join the anti-Cha-cha protests on June 18," it added.

Dating to here spread protests on in the Arab countries, Migrante said its chapters in the Middle East would hold balikbayan protests, signature drives and online petitions to denounce the Arroyo administration for pushing for Cha-cha.

John Leonard Monterona, Migrante coordinator in the Middle East, said his group had launched, through e-mail, a signature drive against Cha-cha and that more than a hundred OFWs and OFW groups had signed the petition. With a report From Arroyo's inner

Group starts campaign for voters' education

DAVAO CITY—A PRIVATELY FUNDED group has launched a Mindanao-wide advocacy program aimed at helping voters decide whom to choose in the 2010 elections.

Carlos Manda, one of the organizers of the Mindanao Vote movement, told reporters here that they were not endorsing any candidate.

Their goal, he said, is for voters to make a wise decision by helping them know the candidates' platforms, particularly their stand on the issue of the Charter, old peace and order condition in Mindanao, congressional resolution proposing and increased representation of Mindanao in national government.

Manda said the group went on put up a website (www.mindanaovote.com), where aspirants for the positions of president and senator, and other politicians could post their agenda.

Jun Aparece, another member of the movement, said the initiative is open to the president of a convergence among young Mindanao leaders, indigenous peoples' groups, urban poor groups, and farmers.

He said the election education campaign was all about teaching people how to vote and how to assess their candidates they might have committed in the past.

Manda should never allow vote buying but instead think about how their candidates could help in the development of their communities and the island in general, he said.

"For so long we have been considering only the candidates and not what we want. In the value of our money can only be [a cut-off machines, needles, or any other stuff]," he added.

"This is about active politics. For politics to shape the destiny of our nation, we need to talk about it as a day-to-day basis," Aparece said. With data, Inquirer Mindanao

GMA allies plan Con-ass next month

From page A1

Congress last week.

The Bagong City representative said lawmakers were hoping that public outrage would be channeled to challenge in the Supreme Court (or the Senate) positive that amendments to the Constitution could be approved by three-fourths of the entire membership of the two chambers voting jointly.

The 23-member Senate has opposed the move, but Arroyo's allies expect to overcome the upper chamber's resistance with their three number in the lower house.

Barangay and convening a constituent assembly would step only when measures or members of civil society agree that the proposed joint voting by the two chambers in any Charter change (Cha-cha).

He said that while the caucus remained unresolved, lawmakers were witnessed public protests generated by the Catholic Church and other religious organizations and street protests.

A pastoral statement issued over the weekend by Jaro archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, urged peaceful protests against HR 1109, but Domagoso said the Church was not "permanent enemy."

"The final judge would be the Filipino people in a plebiscite that [would] ratify whatever proposals that would be approved by a constituent assembly," Barangay said reporters in Baguio.

Mendoza in criticism that Church was meant to prolong the terms of the President, which is expiring next year. Domagoso pointed out that HR 1109 did not seek the extension of term limits of elective officials.

Everyone invited

Domagoso said the House leadership had the Church process when Congress resumes in July by "inviting everyone" to join the constituent assembly including members.

According to him, the assembly would proceed even if senators refused to participate in the deliberations on HR 1109's consideration.

"We mind the court is not the same and we all know to interpret the provisions guiding Charter amendments so that the next Congress won't have to argue [should they move to include the] month of amendments," Domagoso said.

In Manila, Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III told Malacañang was suspending the principle of separation of powers and would act middle to Congress' moves to change the Constitution.

But Bello said lawmakers should explain to the public their decision to pass the HR 1109.

"The people have the right to know the reasons behind their action," he said. "The public must have an open mind regarding this conclusion."

The House leadership approved Resolution HR 1109 on Wednesday.

"It doesn't matter if House will approve without the Senate or at least majority of them must signify their intention to attend," said House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor Jr. in a phone interview.

Otherwise, the Bello lawmaker said, that would put the House in bad light.

Invitation to each senator

Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino said that the House leadership was considering sending HR 1109 to individual senators, and not the Senate as a body, for endorsement.

Antonino said that this would serve as an invitation to attend the Con-ass.

He said the Con-ass would be convened a few weeks before the President's State of the Nation Address on July 27 in order to create a "favorable" mass for the Supreme Court to lay down a final ruling on how should a Con-ass be formed.

Defensor said the call to convene a Con-ass would be made by Speaker Prospero Nograles, "but he will have to first get a consensus of all leaders before making a declaration."

Lawyer Oliver Lozano said his daughter on Wednesday went to the Supreme Court to challenge HR 1109.

On Thursday, businessman Louis Biraogo followed suit, calling in a 10-page petition the resolution as unconstitutional.

"If both houses of the Congress must vote separately even on resolutions similar like sending a public letter after a deserved prohibition, it is absurd to assume that the House of Representatives and the Senate should vote jointly on easy vote independently of each other, because the power to propose changes is the most important law of the land—the Constitution—is exercised by the Congress," Biraogo said.

"Unfortunately House Resolution No. 1109 is headed on that absurdity," he said. With reports from Vincent Cabreza and William Mc Gregor Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Till G. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora in Manila

2 bodies, ticket found near Airbus crash site

From page A1

replaced as the under recommended, but cautioned that it was too early to draw conclusions about what role that may have played in the crash.

Brazilian officials are focusing on the recovery of victims and plane components—as the planes's black box data and voice recorders, which could reveal why the jet crashed.

Finding the black boxes is the mission of the French government, with help from the Brazilians.

The recovery by Brazilians investigators of the bodies of two more passengers and a ticket also raised hopes that searchers might find a more precise search area for the black boxes.

The El Navy is sending two high-tech devices to French ships that will help them locate the black boxes, a senior US defense official said on Saturday.

The Brazil Flight Location, which can detect emergency beacons to depth of 6,100 meters (20,000 feet), are being flown to Brazil on Monday with a US Navy team, said the official, who requested anonymity because the decision has not been announced.

The team will deliver the devices to two French rags that will take them to Robert for transfer to ships from the biked base, the official said.

Off northern coast

Brazilian investigators searching a zone of several hundred square kilometers (or debris) recovered the bodies of two male passengers on Saturday morning about 70 km (40 miles) south of where the flight seemed to lose signals—roughly 640 (in 1400 miles) northeast of the Fernando de Noronha islands off Brazil's northeast coast.

Col. Jorge Amaral, the spokesperson of the Brazilian Air Force, said an Air France ticket was found inside a leather valise. The ticket number "corresponds to a passenger on the flight," he said.

Admiral Edson Lawrence said the two bodies were being transported to the Fernando de Noronha islands for identification. A bodysuit with a laptop and a recording unit also was recovered.

All the planes met with a initial number on a French Navy vessel, but officials were still trying to confirm that it was a unit belonging to flight 447, which disappeared to incidental weather a week ago during a flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris with 228 people aboard.

Air France's deadliest plane crash.

Relief to families

The discovery of the bodies and debris came as relief to some family members, many of whom gathered in a hotel in Rio, where they've received constant updates about the search.

Other relatives, however, refused to give up on the chance he survived.

"We're elation, but we still have hope," Sonia Gagliano, whose grandson Lucas Gagliano, who was an air steward on the flight, told the 9 Globo newspaper.

"We are a young boy, just 22 years old, and he speaks eight languages. I'm in a complete daze with all this," she said.

The French accident investigation agency, BEA, found that the plane had received inconsistent airspeed readings from different instruments as it struggled in a storm overnight June 1, agency officials said on Saturday.

'They hadn't been replaced'

The investigation is increasingly focused on whether external instruments may have iced up, overloading the computers to set the plane's speed too fast or slow—a potentially deadly malfunction said that the House leadership was considering sending HR 1109 to individual senators, and not the Senate as a body, for endorsement.

Antonino said that this would serve as an invitation to attend the Con-ass.

He said the Con-ass would be convened a few weeks before the President's State of the Nation Address on July 27 in order to create a "favorable" mass for the Supreme Court to lay down a final ruling on how should a Con-ass be formed.

Defensor said the call to convene a Con-ass would be made by Speaker Prospero Nograles, "but he will have to first get a consensus of all leaders before making a declaration."

Lawyer Oliver Lozano said his daughter on Wednesday went to the Supreme Court to challenge HR 1109.

On Thursday, businessman Louis Biraogo followed suit, calling in a 10-page petition the resolution as unconstitutional.

"If both houses of the Congress must vote separately even on resolutions similar like sending a public letter after a deserved prohibition, it is absurd to assume that the House of Representatives and the Senate should vote jointly on easy vote independently of each other, because the power to propose changes is the most important law of the land—the Constitution—is exercised by the Congress," Biraogo said.

"Unfortunately House Resolution No. 1109 is headed on that absurdity," he said. With reports from Vincent Cabreza and William Mc Gregor Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Till G. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora in Manila

Similar problems

The report followed an incident in which no air France flight from Tokyo to Paris reported problems with its airspeed indicators similar to those believed to have been encountered by Flight 447. In that case, the Dreamliner went found to have been blocked by ice.

Authorities of the BEA continued it was too early to draw conclusions about the role of Pitot tubes in the crash, saying "It does not mean that without replacing the Pitots that the AF26 was dangerous."

He told a news conference in Paris appears to have been a very Pitot tube that the crash of Flight 447 did not mean similar planes were unsafe. AP

Japan eyes cell phones in controlling pandemic

From page A1

body), then jump to parents and others in the community.

Faced with a deadly outbreak, officials will attempt to shorten the distance and save the school—using mobile phones.

Experiment

The tokkatsu will be a virtual one in an experiment funded by the Japanese government.

A subsidiary of Softbank Corp., a major Japanese Internet and cellular provider, has proposed a system that uses phones as its main weapon.

The detail details have yet to be set out, but Softbank hopes to pick an elementary school with about 1,000 students and give them phones equipped with GPS.

The locations of the children will be recorded every minute of the day and stored on a central server.

A few students will be chosen to be considered "infected," and their movements over the previous four days will be compared with those of other students.

The stored GPS data can then be used to determine which children have crossed paths with the infected students and have been put at risk of contracting the disease.

The families of exposed students will be notified by messages to their mobile phones, instructing them to get checked out by doctors. In a real outbreak, such checkups could limit the size of new infections.

Exponential growth

"The number of people infected by such a disease quickly doubles, triples and quadruples," said Masaru Takahashi, who works on infrastructure strategy at Softbank.

Takahashi calculates how fast a disease spreads: If an infected person under three years old passes on the virus to another three people each day, and each newly infected person then makes another three people sick, on the 10th day about 60,000 people would catch the disease.

If each sick person instead infected two people a day, on the 10th day almost 1,000 people would get sick.

The experiment was conceived before the current outbreak of swine flu but has drawn fresh attention now that Japan has the highest number of confirmed cases outside of North America.

As the rate of infection in the general population remains low, officials say the experiment could be expanded to cover a greater area sooner if Japan's Internet and cellular infrastructure.

Most advanced

Japan has many of the most advanced mobile phone technology in the world. It is clustered in high-speed cellular networks, and phones come equipped with features like GPS, TV and touch-screen input.

The mobile phone market is largely saturated, however, and fans are being thrown down by an ongoing price war. Softbank, a government-backed wireless service could be a boon to business.

GPS has its shortcomings, including busy workings indoors, the Softbank believes it could help readings accurate to several yards, at least for an experiment in a limited area.

Small scale technologies like GPS have mainly been used to help people figure out where they are and what to see by.

New application

As networked devices like the iPhone become more popular, new applications let people track their children or friends. They could then give companies and government access to the locations of their children and friends.

Assistant Gohichi University, a prominent school in Tokyo, is giving apple Inc.'s iPhone 3G to students, partially as a way to check attendance via GPS readings from an application running on the phone.

The kind of project raises privacy concerns, and one of the goals of the Japanese experiment is to judge how participants feel about having their location constantly recorded.

If a disease-tracking system were launched for real, no one would be required to sign up, said Tetsu Iwagawa, an official at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Threat of panic

Another concern for the experiment is how to inform people that they may be infected, even if it's just a virtual infection.

"If we don't think carefully about the nature of the warning, people that get such a message could panic," said Katsuya Uchida, a professor at the Institute of Information Security in Yokohama. Uchida serves on a board that evaluates such proposals for the government.

Softbank Telecom, the subsidiary that made the original proposal, might not be drawn to the ministry's method experiment in the field.

But Takahashi says that whichever company is chosen, he hopes the potential benefits of a monitoring system are enough to persuade people to sign up and reveal their whereabouts.

"I think it would have a bigger impact than Tamiflu," he said. AP

PEOPLE get screened, as they arrive at, Melbourne's Austin Hospital in Australia's state the swine flu alert level. AFP

ETHNIC and modern blend as indigenous leaders in their tribal finery descend the ramp outside an SM Mall of Asia to attend the First Indigenous Barefoot Doctors' National Summit. MARK ALINEA

100 tribal healers gather for summit

From page A1

health issues that concern their communities, many of which are very complex.

Malnutrition

Malnutrition is still a big problem, said Dilolo Boyanto Padilla, 36, a Manobo from Lanao.

Although the Manobos are among the indigenous communities of Mindanao, many were displaced by the protracted fighting. Dolloro's family and many others fled to caves and settled there.

Dolloro, a diabetic-to-be, is considered a drug healer of his community and his received several invitations for her work.

"We have to challenge the members of our community to know their rights and not to be ashamed to claim those rights," Marvin Galgo, 43, a Tagbanua from Iwahigan, told the forum. "Big hospitals often ignore them and they really give up. But we teach our people their rights," she said.

Respiratory illnesses

Lito Rhoda, 42, a Tubuyo from Upi, Maguindanao, was a primary health worker before he became a barangay chair. He is also a farmer.

"Our area is 25 kilometers from the poblacion (town center) and there are no roads," he told the forum.

Many people suffer from respiratory ailments, skin diseases and goiter, he said.

Romeo Morilla, 56, is from the Palawan tribes in Palawan and leads Sandawa Tagbanua(?) tribal council. He goes to school in Manila to thank on the health conditions of his fellow Palawans.

"Malaria is still a big problem," he said.

"It is important that the people know the importance of cleanliness of their surroundings. Poverty is not a hindrance to serving the people. I made a promise to both God and the people that I will serve," Morilla said.

Generosity

One of the conveners, Sr. Febbs Mantos (PC, president of the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission Inc. (Filipino) and 1997 Outstanding Magsaysay Awardee for community leadership, said the summit was also a way to honor the barefoot doctors "for their generosity to be God's instruments in healing their ailing brothers and sisters in their tribal communities."

Since 2005, barefoot doctor from 114 tribal have been trained under the indigenous peoples community health's medicine development programs (Ethpro).

A training manual had been written just for these and seven batches have finished the program.

The summit participants are graduates of the training programs and veteran healers in their communities.

The barefoot doctors have gone through courses on indigenous cultures, knowledge and health practices, health education and promotion, and diagnosis and treatment of common illnesses to illness medicine, as well as complementary medicine (herbal, reflexology, acupuncture, etc.). (Pull health), running a Bahay ng Batangay, responsible parenthood and natural family planning, community organizing, and leadership and team building.

Climate change, &c

One of the speakers, Senator Mercedes Escudero, Jaime Lichen-Tan, ranked adaptative medicine. Other topics discussed were indigenous healing, nutrition, trade, climate change and environmental disasters.

"Sa AGHAM, the ideas which shares, can be to a position to, we also the council.

Among the sponsors was Misereor, a leading agency of the Catholic Bishops of Germany, Healing Hands Ethpro, the Department of Health, and the Mindanao Commission for Indigenous Peoples.

Republic of the Philippines
Quezon City
Office of the City Treasurer

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Office of the City Treasurer of Quezon City hereby gives notice to the public that the following un-issued accountable forms were lost/totally destroyed during the fire incident at the 3rd Floor, Treasury Building, City Hall Complex, Quezon City on May 6, 2009:

Form Classification	Quantity	Serial Nos.
Accountable Form 51	12,153	1811501 -- 2419150
Computerized Official Receipts	6,000	3194001 -- 3650000
Community Tax Certificate (Individual)	12	2008-00000001 -- 2008-00010500
	1	2008-00000001 -- 2008-00000700
	200	2009-00000501 -- 2009-00010500
	2,104	23766801 -- 23865000
	4,950	06775001 -- 07322500
Community Tax Certificate (Corporation)	464	00096801 -- 00098000
Municipal Form 66	900	280001 -- 330000
Cash Tickets		
P25.00	100	0100001 -- 0105000
P20.00	1,000	0085001 -- 0115000
P 5.00	100	0122501 -- 0127500
P 5.00	650	0085001 -- 0127500
P 5.00	550	0100001 -- 0127500
P 5.00	200	0140001 -- 0155000
P 5.00	600	0085001 -- 0115000
P 5.00	505	0099751 -- 0125000
P 5.00	550	0100001 -- 0127500
Unmarketed (P1.00)	4,000	

This Notice is being issued in order that the public may guard against the fraudulent use of the same. When found or discovered to be in possession of unauthorized persons, it is requested that the matter be immediately reported to this Office. Any transaction involving the said accountable forms shall not be honored and considered illegal.

VICTOR E. CHOGLE, JR. C.E.
City Treasurer

MWSS

NOTICE TO MAYNILAD CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC

Maynilad

Maynilad, the West Zone concessionaire of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), will hold a series of public consultations on the proposed term extension of its Concession Agreement.

The public is invited to attend the consultations, which will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the following dates and venues:

June 17	**Pearl Hall, Seamo Innotech, Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City**
June 19	**Casa Marineno, General Luna corner Sta. Potenciana Streets, Intramuros, Manila**

Grand Launch on June 11,
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Grand Open House on June 12, 13 and 14

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Esquivel slay try suspect nabbed

By DJ Yap

ONE OF SEVERAL LEFTIST REBELS TAGGED IN THE AMBUSH OF a son of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) official Roberto "Bobby" Esquivel and his driver in San Pedro, Laguna, last February fell into the hands of authorities over the weekend, the police said yesterday.

Didier Orosco, an alleged member of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade, was arrested by members of the Northern Police District's (NPD) intelligence and investigation division at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Chief Insp. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., NPD director, said the arrest took place at the parking lot of SM Molino in Bacoor, Cavite, on the strength of an arrest warrant issued by Judge Ursula Tee Gomez of the San Pedro, Laguna Regional Trial Court for a murder charge.

Orosco, said to be the subject of a months-long surveillance by NPD intelligence operatives before he was arrested, Pagdilao said, is a prime rebel suspect.

He is believed to be one of the gunmen in the Feb. 2 ambush of Mayo, the 13-year-old son

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15 passengers hurt in jeepney collision

By Dil Pop

FIFTEEN JEEPNEY PASSENGERS, including a pregnant woman, were seriously hurt when their vehicle was hit by another jeepney in an intersection in Malabon City yesterday morning, the police said.

Among the victims were Estrella Erdoc, 35, who was rushed to another emergency hospital because of her pregnancy, Ace Ivanhoe Fragata, 19, and Rizel Ann Erdoc, 7; William Parcia, 28; Sofia Parcia, 29 and their daughter Mikela Myleen, 11.

Investigators cleared that the accident occurred at 10:20 a.m. yesterday.

A report submitted by PO1 Ruben Ramos said the victims were in a jeepney (plate number ZXH 349) with Esteban Bagunas, 60, behind the wheel when they were rammed by another jeepney (TDA 999) at the corner of E. Jacinto and Gregal Streets in Barangay Concepcion Uno.

The impact of the collision was so strong that the victims' jeepney overturned several times on it. It ended up upside down with many of the passengers pinned inside the vehicle.

The victims, many of whom were in serious condition, were rushed to the Ospital Ng Malabon Medical Center for treatment, the police said.

The driver of the second jeepney was identified by the police as Ireneo Dungcalion, 41.

Metro Briefs

Japanese man robbed

MOTORCYCLE-riding robbers stole the bag of a Japanese tourist as he was walking back to his hotel on Saturday night, Manila Police District (MPD) operations head launched a hunt for the thieves who victimized Shinkai Hitaki, 66, a native of Nagano, Japan, after they snatched his bag during at the Manila Pavilion Hotel on Ermita. The hotel is near the MPD's Ermita police station. S. Hitaki said he was walking on Mabuhay on his way back to his hotel when the robbers grabbed his chest bag, which contained one million yen and P120,000 in cash. The victim said the bag also contained his passport, driver's license, two credit cards and a cellphone.

Jaime Ilio/ Journalist

Monthlong celebration

A SERIES of activities that include tree planting, free car wash, motorcycle parade, parade of floats and musical contests have been lined up by the Makati City government for the month-long celebrations of this city's anniversary. March 30, June 30 to June 24, the Makati Parks and Green Brigade will plant trees on the Osmeña Highway, while on June 25, the city's Police and Armed Office will offer free vehicle emission tests to vehicle owners.

Alison M. Lopez

Slay try probably work-related, DOTC official tells police

By Dil Pop

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION Assistant Secretary Elmer Soriano has told the Pasig police he believed the attempt on his life last week could be related to his executive position in the department.

Soriano, in a statement to investigators probing the assassination attempt, said his position in the links and awards committee could be the reason two of five men shot him when he was driving to work on Orbit Avenue in Barangay Kapitolyo on Wednesday morning.

The official sustained serious wounds but survived the ambush. He is still recovering at the Medical City in Ortigas district.

"He said there would be people who get angered by some of his decisions in the bids and awards committee, like those taken to disqualified," SPO4 Roberto Garcia, the case investigator, told the Inquirer yesterday.

Garcia, head of the Department of Transportation and Communications' links and awards committee on the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal, testified in the Senate inquiry into the deal in 2008.

But Garcia said Soriano told them he did not believe the NBN-ZTE contract was the motive at all, considering that the issue was already "moot. Unlisted."

The police officer added that Soriano promised to provide the police today or tomorrow with the names of the people who should be investigated for possible connections to the attempt on his life.

As of yesterday, no suspects have been named by the investigators although at least three "strong" motives have been drawn up with the help of eyewitnesses.

A man who has a standing reconciliation or a shooting of one of the suspects was arrested on Thursday night but the unidentified man was released after the eyewitnesses failed to positively identify him. Funny police chief Senior Supt. Simeon de Jesus said.

He said the police were looking for two other men based on sketches made with the help of eyewitnesses. Although he added he could not yet divulge their locations.

Two men, accompanied by three others, shot Soriano while he was driving to work on Wednesday morning, hitting him in the arm and torso, police said.

STRANDED
Dozens of jeepneys ride end up beached on the bank of the Tanauan River in Marikina City when the water level went down due to an unannounced in the weather.

3 Chinese paper execs charged

By Tina G. Santos

THREE OFFICIALS OF A CHINese newspaper were charged on Friday for allegedly evading almost P100,000 worth of the company's funds.

Charged with frauds in the Manila Regional Trial Court was Kua Sui Kee, director and general manager of the United Daily News (UDN) Inc., a Chinese newspaper being circulated nationwide and with an office located in Binondo, Manila. Also charged were Victoria Ko, UDN director and treasurer and Janet Ko, UDN assistant treasurer.

The case against the three officials was based on the complaint filed by UDN which was represented by Cheng Yan Wan and Anna Ki Santo Cheng.

The information filed in court by Assistant City Prosecutor Aileen Mendoza showed that the three officials allegedly committed the crime between November 2001 and June 2007.

Showing that time, the respondents reportedly prepared vouchers worth P297,800 as payment for gift certificates which the company had purchased. However, the company claimed that it had already paid for the gift certificates even before the document reached processing the vouchers.

In its complaint, UDN accused the respondents of misappropriating the money for their personal use and benefit.

Did you know

THE *WOMEN'S* chapter of the Inquirer was launched in Manila in 1953, with then Pilar's sister Josefa as president and widow Benilauro's wife Gregoria de Jesus as vice president. The women guarded the documents of the Katipunan, escorted members and officials to and from conferences and helped in business when fathers or husbands were in jail.

Cyril L. Bonilauro, Inquirer Research

Esquivel slay try suspect nabbed

By [illegible]

of Esquivel, also MMDA bike-ride Clearing Operation Group head—and Esquivel's driver, Johnny Aglay, 39, as Aney arrested.

The incident left the younger Esquivel constantly wounded while Aglay died instantly due to gunshot wounds to the head and body.

Lim has apparently left Manila by the attackers included that the target of the ambush was Esquivel, who was not in the vehicle with his car at the time, and that his operations against informal settlers and sidewalk vendors in Metro Manila could be the motive.

Citizen's call

Heavy traffic on C.P. Garcia

C. P. GARCIA Street in El Chiman has become a truck route, leading to heavy traffic in the area. It gets worse whenever drivers repair engines on the street. Can the MMDA do something about this?

FUSTER MATIRA, 28, Quezon City

Jaywalkers on Secat Road

ATTENTION, Pasolinque mayor. Please check jaywalkers at the corner of Lacson and Secat Road. They ignore the pedestrian over pass and traffic enforcers are helpless in implementing the jaywalking law.

TOMMY JUSTINA, 44, Las Piñas

'Habal-habal' in peak Barangay Forbes

BARANGAY officials' "habal-habal" (motorcycle) that operate illegally by picking up commuters at no terminal area share on McKinley Road, Barangay Forbes, Makati City. At midnight and most may ngas lang pulis Makati ang nangkikingil ng lang sa mga driver ang mga habal-habal. Bigyan niyo naman ng aksyon.

[illegible]

WELCOME SIGHT
Anna, 43, of Antipolo City, writes: "Thanks to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority for its efforts to improve Edsa. The view that it planted on the sidewalks awaits us, particularly as we cross Mercedes Line of the highway, have started to grow and are a welcome sight for traffic-weary motorists and pedestrians."

[illegible] and some Makati policemen who enforce money from these motorcycle drivers. Mayor Binay, please act on our complaint.

MARIA ALGOSO, 42, Makati

Smoking zones?

PASAY Mayor Binay, sagot ako ang mga usok kung nagyosi ka dumaan ng mga bus ka [illegible] sa akin? (There's a lot of smokers in front of buildings with rail centers in Makati.)

ANGELO ADVINCULA, 24, Manila

Shirtless in QC

I HOPE the Quezon City police will implement the "wear your shirt" policy in the city. It seems people here don't mind going out shirtless.

JOEL, 47, Quezon City

Chaotic garbage collectors

RALLY! segregation is being revealed here in Lagro, Novaliches. The streets the "separate" ops began only get out of our hands bags. They toss these open and mix up the contents with the other garbage, making biodegradable with unsalvageable waste. It's pathetic, but waste segregation begins and ends in our homes. Awareness are the main rules must teaching.

NOEL DELACRUZ, 55, Lagro, Quezon City

Attention, LTFRB

THERE'S a taxi operator who always adds P10 to the fare of his passengers. The taxi's name is St. Jude Taxi, license plate TWW 226. Please do something about this. LTFRB.

RJ, 27, Quezon City

Container trucks causing traffic

CONTAINER trucks using lanes one and two Fortuna Avenue in Mariveles City is a parking lot are causing traffic in the area.

[illegible] OF LIM REYES, 68, Paranaque City

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

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World leaders hail D-Day's history-makers

BARACK OBAMA TOPPED THE World would never forget the dead of D-Day as he joined fellow leaders on Saturday at the site of the Allied landing which changed the course of history.

In a ceremony overlooking Omaha beach, the US president saluted more than 9,387 US soldiers killed in the Battle of Normandy, 65 years after American, Canadian and British troops stormed ashore under torrents of blue fire.

"At an hour of unanimous days, amid the bluster of elder statesmen, men who thought themselves ordinary found within themselves the ability to do something extraordinary," Obama said.

"It was unbearable then, but so much of the progress that would define the 20th century, on both sides of the Atlantic, came down to the battle for a slice of beach only six miles long and two miles wide," he said.

"That the Allies failed here, Hitler's occupation of his continent might have continued indefinitely," to which he credits the biggest amphibious assault in history, some 156,000 Allied personnel landed in France on June 6, 1944.

An estimated 10,000 Allied troops were left dead, wounded or missing, while Germany lost between 4,000 and 9,000, and thousands of French civilians were killed.

"We will never forget the pain or the extent of the suffering and may we never renounce the virtues of peace and justice for humanity," French President Nicolas Sarkozy said alongside Obama, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Britain accounted for the largest share of the 2,300 Commonwealth troops killed, with memories in Normandy and Brown paid tribute to the brave fighting men of the largest amphibious operation in the annals of warfare. "This day marks the triumph of right over wrong... the victory of human decency over hatred and the Holocaust," he added.

But in a gaffe which could be interpreted as a symptom of domestic political troubles, Brown reminded the fallen Greeks beach "Utamo beach."

Obama was accompanied to the ceremony by his wife Michelle, who wore a crisp white Narciso Rodriguez suit, with Sarkozy's wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy in matching white Christian Dior.

Among guests at the ceremony was Tom Hanks, star of "Saving Private Ryan" which begins with graphic scenes depicting the Normandy landings.

Former Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole, a wounded World War II hero Bob Dole was there as was Claude Payne, Obama's great uncle, who took part in the liberation of the Buchenwald Nazi concentration camp in Germany which Obama visited on Friday.

One veteran H. Smith Shumway, 87, a lieutenant who came ashore on D-Day walked between the graves of his fallen comrades at the US cemetery on the cliffs overlooking Omaha beach.

"I want to thank you for your service," said a young US marine in dress uniform, shaking the hand of Shumway, who was blinded by an anti-tank mine in July 1944.

Shumway has been trying to find the remains of a US spy captured and killed after they lost contact on a night patrol near after D-Day.

Veteran George Chatterton, 84, said: "I didn't come before because I was afraid to be too open. But given my age I might not make it next time." AFP

In this June 6, 1944 photo, US soldiers wade ashore during the Allied landing operations at Normandy.

Foreground, US President Barack Obama, Britain's Prince Charles, Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper and French President Nicolas Sarkozy at the American Cemetery at Colleville-Sur-Mer, near Caen, Western France, on June 6 to attend the 65th Anniversary of the D-day landings in Normandy.

PUTIN

'Sign this!'—Putin shows oligarchs who's boss

MOSCOW—"Oleg Vladimirovich, have you signed the agreement? I don't see your signature. Come here and sign it now," growled Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

He threw a pen down on the table and beckoned the man towards him with his hand.

Oleg Deripaska—until last year was the richest man in Russia and an ecstatic father of a spectacular $30 billion—rose from his seat and signed the document under Putin's icy stare with his head bowed.

This week's televised humiliation of Deripaska, the owner of a string of key industrial firms, symbolized the decline of Russia's once all-powerful oligarchs over the last years.

In the chaotic years under the late president Boris Yeltsin, the oligarchs—men who built up huge fortunes from assets privatized after the break-up of the Soviet Union—achieved enormous levels of political power.

But Putin's presidency from 2000-2008 put an end to that. And now the financial crisis has whittled down their fortunes and exposed vast levels of debt.

After Deripaska signed the document, Putin grinned like only a man in astounding control, "Now you can get back," he scolded as the oligarch headed towards his seat still holding the prime minister's ballpoint.

Putin had been visiting the northern industrial town of Pikalevo where the production of three factories, including one owned by Deripaska's Basel Cement, had ground to a halt in the economic crisis prompting rare social unrest.

Laid-off workers on Tuesday blocked a main highway in the area for several hours, causing billionaires of traffic jams.

Two days later—while international business chiefs joined President Dmitry Medvedev in a glitzy economic forum in Saint Petersburg—Putin headed to the gritty town of 22,000 people in an image right.

The prime minister bashed his orders in a small conference room where Deripaska, regional leaders and media union representatives assured him the unrest people being scolded by a particularly hated member.

The document signed by Deripaska under Putin's gaze was an agreement for the supply of raw materials to the factory to revive production.

"I think you have made thousands of people hostage to your ambitions, unpublic ambitions and maybe simply greed," said Putin.

"This is simply unacceptable. Where is it? Where is the social responsibility of business? Where is it? We talk about this nonstop at every meeting!" he added.

"Why did you all run here like cockroaches just before I was about to come?" AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

British PM Brown waves to battle on

LONDON—Gordon Brown vowed to fight on as Britain's prime minister on Saturday, admitting that his facing an unprecedented period of turbulence as he wrestled another electoral disaster. A day after reshuffling his Cabinet and ordered it members to work harder, Brown said he was "absolutely determined" in spite of signing as he headed for the Normandy battlefields on a brief respite from the struggle for he political survival. However, in a slip-up suggesting the premiers may be taking its toll, Brown renamed the famed Omaha beach "Utamo beach" while giving his speech to mark the 65th anniversary of D-Day alongside US President Barack Obama. AFP

Carradine death mystery deepens

BANGKOK/LOS ANGELES—The family of actor David Carradine has asked US authorities to help unravel the mystery of his death, amid conflicting reports about how his body was found hanging naked in a Bangkok hotel. Speculation about the death of Carradine, 72, who starred in the 1970s-era US television show "Kung Fu" and the movie sequel "Kill Bill" movies, has deepened since his body was discovered on Thursday by a maid in the Bangkok hotel suite where he was staying while filming the movie "Stretch." With coroners awaiting results of toxicology tests, Thai police pointed to suicide or accidental autoerotic asphyxiation as possible causes of death. Some reports have said a cord was wrapped around Carradine's genitals and others that his hands were bound behind his back. None could be confirmed. In Bangkok, police said it could take several weeks for coroners to confirm exactly how Carradine died. REUTERS

Deaths in Mexico daycare fire rise to 38 children

HERMOSILLO, Mexico—The death toll from a fire at a daycare center in northern Mexico rose to 38 children with 20 more hospitalized, many with life-threatening burns, Mexican authorities said on Saturday. Mexican President Felipe Calderon ordered an investigation into Friday's fire at the ABC daycare center in the northern city of Hermosillo to find who is to blame and later visited hospitals where survivors were being treated. REUTERS

98-year-old US woman gets high school diploma

CHICAGO—A 98-year-old suburban Chicago woman who dropped out of school to help her family during the Great Depression now has her high school diploma. Illinois' Beryl left Chicago Public Schools' Lake View High in 1930 during her senior year to take a job. Over the following decades, she moved to the suburb of Glenview and had 11 children, 34 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren. Beryl attended night school for typing and bookkeeping, but she recently told one of her daughters that never completing high school was one of her greatest disappointments. Her children contacted Lake View, and the school approved Beryl's diploma. AP

2 killed in suicide attack in Pakistan capital

ISLAMABAD—Two people were killed in a suicide attack on a police station in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, on Saturday, hours after tens of Taliban militants were killed in a shootout in the southwest. Officials said Pakistan had been braced for attacks by militants since the army launched an offensive in Swat—but the Taliban from the northwestern Swat valley and near by districts in late April. At least 48 people, including 12 children, were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a mosque in Upper Dir district, near Swat, on Friday. REUTERS

Castro calls US spy arrests 'strange'

HAVANA—HAVANA Cuba called the case of two Americans accused of spying for Cuba "strange" Saturday and questioned whether the timing of their arrests was politically motivated.

In an easy nod by a newspaper to close relations, the former Cuban leader noted that the accused Washington couple were taken into custody just 24 hours after the Organization of American States voted to lift a decades-old suspension of Cuba's membership in that group.

Though the US already supported the OAS vote spearheaded the administration of President Barack Obama initially wanted to ensure democratic reforms on the communist island before Cuba was readmitted.

Walter Kendall Myers and his wife, Gwendolyn, were arrested Thursday in Washington after a three-year investigation began before Myers' retirement from the State Department in 2007.

The US government says they had been spying for Havana for 30 years, recruited by Cuba after a 1978 trip there. AP

WHEN STROKE STRIKES

Stroke—kill about 1 million people each year and is considered as the second leading cause of death worldwide. At least 15 million patients have non-fatal strokes annually and about a third is significantly disabled as a consequence. In the Philippines, it is one of the leading causes of death together with other vascular diseases.

A stroke is similar to a heart attack. It is caused by the malfunction or "death" of a part of the brain when there is a lack of blood supply to that area due to a blockage or a ruptured vessel. When stroke hits a patient, time lost is considered brain lost. The faster he gets help and able to receive medical intervention, the greater the chance for the patient to survive from stroke.

Equally important is for one to recognize the warning signs of stroke. Everyone is advised to be conscious of the following signs: sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg especially on one side of the body; confusion, having trouble in speaking, understanding; seeing with one or both eyes; walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; and severe headache with no known cause.

But before a stroke happens, one needs to understand the risk factors so that medical intervention is addressed early and aggressively. The non-modifiable risk factors for stroke include age, sex, family history, race and ethnicity factors that we cannot control. However there are modifiable risk factors for stroke which when eliminated or controlled reduce the risk of stroke significantly. These are hypertension, cardiac disease (particularly atrial fibrillation), diabetes, hypercholesterolemia or elevated cholesterol, cigarette smoking, alcohol abuse, physical inactivity, asymptomatic carotid stenosis, and transient ischemic attack.

There is a growing concern that because of the lifestyle and diet of Asians, particularly Filipinos, cholesterol levels are rising resulting to an increasing risk for stroke (Asian Lifestyle). Recently, published in the Journal of Epidemiology, the Asian Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration reported a 25 percent increased risk of fatal or non-fatal ischaemic stroke in the region, associated with increasing total cholesterol, as the result of assessing outcomes from 68 study groups across the region. The same report confirmed that cholesterol is rising substantially in Asia.

The Link Between Cholesterol and Stroke

In addition to being a leading cause of heart attacks, high cholesterol is emerging as a major risk factor for what is known as ischaemic stroke. In this type of stroke, the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off because either atherosclerosis or a blood clot has blocked a blood vessel. This is in contrast with the other type of stroke that is known as haemorrhagic, where a blood vessel bursts, allowing blood to leak into an area of the brain.

With an ischaemic stroke, blockage can occur anywhere from the heart along the arterial pathways in the brain. For example, high cholesterol can cause a large deposit of fatty material (atherosclerosis) to develop in a carotid artery (supplying blood to the head), reducing its blood flow to a trickle or to stop completely. This condition is serious because each carotid artery normally supplies a large percentage of the brain's blood supply. Fatty material may also break off from the wall of a carotid artery, travel with the blood, and become stuck in a smaller artery, blocking it completely. Clots can also develop, travel and move to the brain from chambers in the heart to block the brain arteries.

Cholesterol Treatment to Reduce Stroke Risk

As one of the latest main group of drugs known as the "statin" class indicated to reduce cholesterol continues to grow around the region, researchers are also discovering new ways for these drugs to help prevent other dangers caused by high cholesterol, including stroke. In addition to heart attacks. A study among Hispanic patients, The ASCOT (Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial) study was stopped two years earlier than planned - in part because of the major benefits seen to reduce stroke when patients with existing high blood pressure were treated with atorvastatin. Atorvastatin, a medicine from the world's number one research-based pharmaceutical company Pfizer, has been proven effective among diabetic patients in preventing the occurrence of non-hemorrhagic strokes. The Collaborative Atorvastatin Diabetes Study (CARDS) showed that type 2 diabetic patients given atorvastatin 10 mg daily reduced their risk of developing non-hemorrhagic stroke by a significant 50%.

For patients who had a previous stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA), despite the many options now readily available, they are still at increased risk for an additional stroke or heart attack. Up to 40% of people who have experienced a first stroke suffer a second stroke within five years, despite currently available treatment options. However, SPARCL (The Stroke Prevention by Aggressive Reduction in Cholesterol Levels) ultra first large-scale prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial designed to evaluate a population consisting only of patients with prior stroke/TIA without CHD demonstrated that atorvastatin 80 mg significantly reduced the risk of stroke by 16% and reduced the risk of major coronary events by 35%, a result never before demonstrated by a statin in this population.

"It is important for patients to be more aware about their diseases and the possible risks to his/her health management. A sensible lifestyle and high quality medication for ailments such as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes would be the key in making sure their healthcare needs are addressed sufficiently, says Dr. Jaman Wee, Pfizer Philippines Cluster Physician for Lipids and Diabetes. "It is also highly important that patients communicate with their doctors regularly so that they can get up-to-date information about their diseases. This will greatly help in making the patient understand his condition," he adds.

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Queco

Lawyers agreed CIA brutal tactics were legal

WASHINGTON—WHEN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT lawyers engaged in a sharp internal debate in 2006 over brutal interrogation techniques, even some who believed that using rough tactics was a serious mistake agreed on a basic point: The methods themselves were legal.

Previously overlooked Justice Department e-mail messages, interviews and newly declassified documents show that some of the lawyers, including James B. Comey, the deputy attorney general who argued repeatedly that the United States would regret using harsh methods, went along with a 2003 legal opinion asserting that the techniques used by the CIA were lawful.

That opinion, giving the green light for the CIA to use all 13 methods in interrogating terrorism suspects, including waterboarding and up to 190 hours of sleep deprivation, "was ready to go out and I endorsed," Comey writes in a colleague in an April 27, 2005, e-mail message obtained by The New York Times.

While signing off on the techniques, Comey in his e-mail message provided a firsthand account of how he tried unsuccessfully to discourage use of the practices. He made a last-ditch effort to derail the interrogation program, urging Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales in vain to go to White House meeting in May 2003 that it was "wrong."

He found that a case could be made "that some of this stuff was simply awful." NYT

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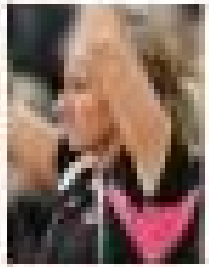
■ **Kuznetsova** is new French queen /A32



SPORTS

Jones Cup final test for all-pro Powerade RP 5

By Rhaissa N. Carvallo

Perfect Santos steals RP Open thunder

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT TOOK A YOUNGSTER NOT TO SHOW the Yokely Pawigs.

Anika Santos, 19, showed up the big stars by stalling the first perfect game Saturday night in the 38th Philippine International Open tenpin bowling championships.

The Tiffin State Prima bet rated a brand-new 15-pound Hoosier Smashstone to achieve the rare 300 game and claim the P250,000 scholarship offered by bowling chief Nicky Tantoco of the University of Perpetual Help System.

"It was God's grace," said the Ateneo management sophomore of his very first perfect game.

Cheered on by brothers Jerold and Aaron, Santos struck on lanes 17 and 18 of Pasig's Midtown Bowl in Robinsons Metro, dispelling beliefs that the venue favored left-handers like him.

Midtown Bowl also produced women champions the last two times it hosted big international events.

National team coach Nico Valdezamon and players need to make a lot of adjustments to stay forward on the lanes and Santos, who shot a scratch 1,161 while competing in the nine with Collins Ann and Jeff Chan, remarkably showed that.

Santos made 12 successive strikes to catapult herself into the top of the men's all-events with a score of 1,308.

He has boosted his team to the Class D men's roles and lifted him past countryal players Chester King (1,4841 and Bobby Rivera (1,466) to the team's all-event standings. He chalked up 3581 in singles, 968 in doubles and 4944 in trios.

RP Youth's Jessa Salonga who had a shot at a perfect game Friday but missed the 11th pin in his last frame overtime 26.

Salonga shot 179 and 228 in the first two games for a 705 total to vault to second spot behind Rivera (726) and ahead of erstwhile second placer King (697).

PBAP Bowlmen's Larry Penalba whipped up a six-game series of 1,308 to seize the top spot in the ladies' Class D.

Davao Norte pugs shine; Barriga best of Mindanao

By Jane Navarro

DAVAO CITY—HINK ANTHONY BARRIGA moved a step closer to fulfilling his dream of ranking the national team by emerging as the Rank Score in the 2009 Smart-Araneta Mindanao amateur boxing championships yesterday at the Phoenix Sports Center here.

The 16-year-old Malibu operator's son sealed the gold in the junior pinweight class after notching Davao City's Adlai Oliva, 27-12, in a performance that impressed officials of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

Barriga, champion in the last four editions of the National Games and reigning Palarong Pambansa gold medalist three years in a row, made it to the Alaap national championships, considered scheduled at the end of the year.

The incoming sophomore freshman at the University of Mindanao Davao also helped the host province walk away with the overall championship with 7 golds and another 4 dominating the kids (11-12), cadets (13-14), juniors (15-16) and youth (16-18) divisions.

Marcelo Celestial pushed 42 points for second place followed by Calinan, Davao City, with 11 for the qualifiers backed by PLDT Asset Intel Mikeey T. Pangilinan, also the Alaap head.

Belle Tabuzo's midfielder victory over Warren Christopher Ramirez of Mindanao sparked Davao del Norte into a 4-0 win over Davao del Sur.

Hermie Sabador III, adjudged Fresh boxer Davao, retired Mindy Jeffrey Galleto in the second round while featherweight Jayar Ignacio, flyweight Julius Bonghanoy, lightfly Glen Castrovieja and bantam Alfredo Dumao won their respective final bouts for the hosts.

Second Davao City made its mark in the 12-teen division through light by Reddan Bancolas and bantam Eduardo Salazar while Bantahan Sarapilla, junior light pinweight and Ramon Garde, junior pinweight) sparkled for North Cotabato in the school boys class.

Other host bantam Rolando Abaya, Alvar Jaclag, cannot boys and Enrico Dela Cruz against Ronnie Jaclag.

SSC sweeps Adamson; FEU gains playoff

By Cedelf P. Tapao

SAN SEBASTIAN DETHRONED ADAMSON with a swift and marvelous 25-14, 25-22, 25-14 victory yesterday to sweep its best-of-three semifinal series in the sixth Shakey's V-League presented by Cherifer at the MOA Flying V tennis in Sun Juan.

Superior on all fronts, the Lady Stags pounced on the short-handed Lady Falcons to clinch their fifth championship appearance.

Earlier, Far Eastern University's do-or-die duel for the second finals berth by rubbing past University of Santo Tomas, 16-25, 25-23, 25-21, 25-22.

The Lady Tamaraws kept their pulse in the last three sets as the Tigresses, despite their advantage in hitting and blocking, yielded the points when it mattered.

FEU skipper Rachel Anne Daquis finished with 13 kills, including one that took the Lady Tamaraws to match point in the fourth set.

Its setter by UST skipper Aiza Maizo-aouled the win for the Lady Tamaraws, who can reach the finals for the first time if they beat the three-time champion Tigresses on Tuesday.

The Lady Falcons bowed out of gate without game players Irene Bustrios and Joanne Orolfo-Carpio, who are in Vietnam for a beach volleyball tournament along with UST setter Reinvenant Michelle Cambina.

San Sebastian showed its superiority on many occasions but some more emphatic than one point midway in the second set.

A poor defensive sequence by Adamson left the Gold Jam on top of the center of the line Stephanie not into the awaiting hands of Jeannine Flores, who delivered a vicious kill.

The Lady Falcons proved no match for Thai import Jamonrat Boaler, who fired 30 hits.

"We were able to take advantage of the absence of their top two players," said SSC coach Roger Gonzaga, whose team also secured a 25-14, 25-19, 25-11 win in Game 1.

ADAMSON'S Angela Benting hammers one in off San Sebastian's Analyn Joy Rueno in yesterday's game.

FERNANDO: Biggest career win

ARDINA: Fruitful vacation

Fernando, Ardina RP Am champs

CALAMBA—GAILLEMANN'S MARIE FERnando and ICTSI's Dottie Ardina showed their respective rivals to draw top honors yesterday in the Philippine Amateur Golf Championships presented by Samsung at the Canlubang Golf Club in Barangay Halang.

Fernando cut Korean giant killer Pilang Jeong-hun down to size with a 3-and-4 romp, bucking an opening-hole bogey with three straight birdies from No. 3 that sent him on the way to his biggest ever triumph.

"Despite that bogey, I had a good start and those three birdies really fired me up," said Fernando, a three-time RP team stalwart.

Ardina, on a break from an ICTSI golf scholarship in the United States, stamped her class over Cyprus Shoppers 6-up after 27 holes before cruising in a 6-and-5 triumph.

Inspired, who upended top qualifier Ma. Jessica Grecia, 2-and-1, in the semifinals, aimed to hang on by winning back-to-back holes from No. 11. But Ardina, who stopped ICTSI teammate Chihiro Ikeda, 3-and-2, in the last four, doused the deal with a par on the 31st.

Earlier, Victor Garcia of Manila Golf topped Canada's Holly Vinup on the third playoff hole, 1-up, to claim the senior crown in the event sponsored by Samsung and organized by the National Golf Association of the Philippines and Professional Sports Management Group.

Fernando, who reached the finals with a 3-and-4 win over Kashihiji's Dino Villanueva, won 2-up after 18 holes.

Nat'l team castoffs find redemption

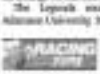
AIR FORCE PITCHER SONNY BOY ACUÑA and Dumpanan Legends hurler Golda Mercado—both national team discards—found redemption in the recent Cebuano Distiller Invitational Open softball championships where they both joined Most Valuable Player in their respective divisions.

The 30-year-old Acuña, who served the RP squad from 2001 (still two years ago), was honored after leading the Airmen to their third Open crown last Friday at the Bonnie Sports Complex in Danao City.

Mercado, former University of Santo Tomas star, was also cut from the national team last year but the 23-year-old made up for it by helping the Legends become the first team to win the women's crown right on its first try in the tournament organized by the resource Softball Association of Philippines.

Both Acuña and Talisoan answered the mound for 12 innings each during Friday's semifinal round and the championship playoffs. The Airmen beat Tagaig City 7-3, in only six innings for the win.

The Legends erased UAAP champion Adamson University 10-1, also in six innings.



By Top Orozco
de Sarria Ana Park

Game 1—(1st St.—Angeles Salas (L), 2nd St.—Cecilia Dulay (T), 3rd St.—Rosalie Ilao (W), 4th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 5th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 6th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 7th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 8th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 9th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 10th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 11th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 12th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 13th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 14th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 15th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 16th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 17th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 18th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 19th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 20th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 21st St.—Ana Cruz (W), 22nd St.—Ana Cruz (W), 23rd St.—Ana Cruz (W), 24th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 25th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 26th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 27th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 28th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 29th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 30th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 31st St.—Ana Cruz (W), 32nd St.—Ana Cruz (W), 33rd St.—Ana Cruz (W), 34th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 35th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 36th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 37th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 38th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 39th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 40th St.—Ana Cruz (W), 41st St.—Ana Cruz (W), 42nd St.—Ana Cruz (W), 43rd St.—Ana Cruz 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Jones Cup final test for RP five

POWERHOUSE PILIPINAS guard Jake Harwood scores with a rim-rocking dunk off four Malaysian defenders.

From page A29

"We still have to check for recent of his injury before we decide on that," the Redwood defenseman added.

"I will only consider looking at other players (for the point guard spot) if both Ryan and Asi Jay (Ybañez/Bernal) aren't be available."

Williams out of roster

Only Kelly Williams seems likely to be out of the Fiba Asia roster after being downed by a blood disease as early as the Phil All-Star break in April.

"I wasn't rush Kelly," Guiao said. "If I were him, I'd rest for about six months and make sure that I get healthy. I won't risk my health anymore."

And if Williams, the reigning PBA MVP, really wasn't be healthy enough to join the Jones Cup come next month, Guiao said he would be dropped from the team altogether, as with any other who will not be able to play in Taipei for whatever reasons.

Hotshothead, the Barangay Ginebra spitfire, joined this cup but is out in the lineup also because of a hamstring pull. This left Willie Miller to send the guard with Gabe Norwood as backup for the Asian meet.

Sonny Thoss, the Alaska center, is also here and is one of the cheerleaders along with Helen Intal, whose condition Guiao described as "iffy at the moment."

Guiao also said he needs to be able to see Japeth Aguilar in action as soon as possible, mentioning that the rookie (who would apply on the 6-foot-9 former Ateneo ace, Bentahay University power forward—he needs to play in Taipei.

Ultimate test before China

"There's no use tapping players for the Fiba Asia if we don't see them play in the Asian Cup," Guiao said. "To me, that's the ultimate test before we go to China. If we can't see him in action in competitive field like the Asian Cup it we won't see him in action (for the Fiba Asia) anymore."

Jones Cup stake allow Guiao the full complement of a 15-man roster. And with Pilipinas out—and if Thoss, Hotshothead and Ybañez get better physically—Aguilar could fill up the roster.

Three Asian berths

Dates still does exist that closes at 12 for the Fiba-Asia, the very tournament for which this meet was established. The Philippines is seeking one of three berths slated in the Asian tournament for the World Basketball Championship, in which the country last competed in the early 1970s.

The world championship is scheduled in Istanbul, Turkey, next year.

The draw for the Fiba-Asia tournament, slated to be held Aug. 8 to 16, will be on June 17 in Tianjin, about 130 kilometers southeast of Beijing.

Hopes pulled his hamstring while going for a baseline drive in the first quarter Saturday night against Malaysia.

The hard-nosed, 6-foot guard volunteered to go back into the fray after receiving first-aid treatment, but Guiao kept him on the bench for fear the player's injury might worsen.

Malaysians now taller, bigger

By Manong R. Castillo

MEDAL DEKNOWS... THE PHILippines' biggest Southeast Asian neighbors are fast catching up with the Filipinos in terms of player height.

Against Malaysia in the South-east Asia Basketball championship here Saturday night, the Nationalists were surprised to face tall, lanky foes.

The Malaysians had at least three players standing close to 6-foot-10, all looking very young and agile.

Talent-wise, though, the Malaysians were still a far cry from the fearsome-influenced Filipino cagers.

For one, the Malaysians lacked the desire to drive to the basket, a key aspect to every Filipino player's game.

They seemed content on lasting the ball around and trying to find the open man for a jumpshot, just like the way the Russian do.

Every player in any collection of superstars like the Powerade-Pilipinas quintet is expected to play on the two ends.

Preferred treatment and the long playing time each one sees really gets from this modest PBA ballclubs are out in the equation.

The same goes for team officials.

RP team manager Jose Baylon Bayleo, also the Cola-Cola representative to the PBA board, also turns in his share and doesn't act like the corporate bigwig that he is.

After the Nationals mastered up for their opening game against Malaysia featuring Baylon gathered the players to one end of the court where the Samboy hunter was and took their picture.

During timeouts, he helps hand out bottled water to the players. And when Ryan Bayse went down because of a pulled hamstring, Baylon was first on the scene. He helped carry the Sta. Lucia guard back to the bench.

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	Effect On Humans	Effect On Property	Effect On Environment
FirePro	✓ Can be used in human presence in designed concentration	✓ No Damage Caused	✓ Friendly to environment Ozone Friendly Eco Green Product
Inert Gases	May lead to inadequate oxygen supply for the brain when used alone	No damage caused	Not harmful
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Cojuangco's dilemma

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo B. Iñego

THE IMMATURE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee, does not seem to be Philippine Amateur athletics. Subsidized, won't set up to have one group in the throes of anarchy. It would mean to create chaos and total confusion in sports, this what is happening today.

"The concern of the POC is the harmony of the National Sports Association and not to interfere in members," said one-time governor sports official. "Being under the International Olympic Committee, administrative matters are the only concern of the Philippine Olympic Committee."

The NSAs are autonomous, their libraries right. There NSAs cannot matter or allow that right to be trampled upon. They shall grant guaranteed, religious and consular powers.

Here Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero is concerned. Recently, he urged the POC to immediately resolve the leadership problems in at least seven NSAs whose officers are preparing for the Southeast Asian Games in Laos this December.

The president's senator from Bicol worried that the Philippine campaign in the SEA Games is headed for failure unless the leaders in equestrian, cycling, swimming, archery, tennis, wrestling and billiards settle their differences.

"Our sports leaders, starting with the POC leadership, should show statesmanship in this critical time," Escudero said.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Harry Angping has also joined the fray calling the present POC leadership problem "irresponsible."

Citing in particular the equestrian case, Angping was quoted as saying: "While the recent confirmation of party-list rep. Cesar Cuadrado as new president of the Equestrian Association of the Philippines by the sport's ruling body—the Federation Equestre Internationale (International equestrian federation)—the POC even finds itself in an anomalous situation where both the previous and the secretary general do not officially represent as NSA."

(The POC head, former Tarlac congressman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, was elected equestrian president last November while then ally Dante Guanzon, formerly the national bowling association president, was named POC secretary general.)

Beyond Cojuangco: "The obvious bias of the POC chair appeared to be unjust with politics and it is clear case of government intervention."

This infighting is not doing sports any good. This cluttering is demoralizing the athletes and hampering their training and causing the loss and woe of the few remaining sponsors in the NSAs as well.

Shorts-time SEA Games gold medalist Bubbles Aseh should be congratulated not only for winning the first ever Masters's Pearl Model Championship, but also for breaking the gender barrier in billiards which has long been dominated by his male counterparts such as former world champions Efren "Bata" Reyes, Rubilen Amit and Alex Pagulayan.

The 27-year-old Aseh, conquering the cohort of Payat Sports, won Saturday's hugely successful Women's World 10-Ball Championship at SM South Mall, beating Chinese Taipei's two-time world champion Liu Shin-ying by a lopsided 13-4 score.

A native of Dumaguete City, Aseh quit her well-paying job in Connecticut—a call center firm—to pocket $20,000, her biggest paycheck at the pool table.

Bettercourt, Wilson pace Memorial; Tiger lurks

ELRIC M. ISIG—PGA TOUR ROOKIE MATT BETTENCOURT AND MARK Wilson took the 54-hole lead Saturday at the Memorial, with Tiger Woods and a pack of major champions behind them. Bettencourt shot a 4-under 68 while Wilson had a 69 to tie at 9-under 207. Former US Open champ Geoff Ogilvy fired a tournament-best 63 to get into contention. Woods scored a 68, while Davis Love III and Jim Furyk were four shots off the lead. AP

Editor Teddyboy B. Melendrez • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ortiz

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Kuznetsova new French queen

SVITLANA Kuznetsova raises the trophy during the awards ceremony after defeating Dinara Safina during the women's singles final of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium. AP

PARIS—SVITLANA KUZNETSOVA NEVER struck Dinara Safina in a Grand Slam championship match before Sunday, when they were kids in Russia. Kuznetsova showered up for nowhere today: a 2-hour bustle of soda and wearing each brand T-shirts.

As of Saturday, Kuznetsova owns two major titles...and that's two more than Safina.

No wonder, 2 can all that spectacular, Kuznetsova took advantage of the No. 1-seeded Safina's unsteady serve and won the French Open final, 6-4, 6-2. Hardly a work of beauty, the 74-minute match ended, fittingly, with Safina's seventh double fault.

"She was too tight. She had so much pressure on her," said Kuznetsova, who also won the 2004 US Open. "I just played the match. It was just one more match. Definitely it was a lot of emotions inside of me, but I control it."

Not so the owner. She lost the first three points and won broken in the first game. Quickly, though, the seventh-seeded Kuznetsova took control, yanking Safina from side to side with the same powerful ground-strokes that eliminated Serena Williams in the quarterfinals.

More disposing to Safina, perhaps, was Kuznetsova's defense.

Time and time again, Safina—sister of two-time major champion Marat Safin—delivered a hard, well-placed shot, only to have Kuznetsova, who scrambled to get the ball over the net. If the champion seems to have a cyclist's strong legs, it's because she does. Kuznetsova's father coached her mother in an world championships and her brother in an Olympic silver medal in that sport.

On a cool and cloudy afternoon, Kuznetsova also displayed sportsmanship by showing off her baseball skills, juggling a tennis ball off her right hon and knee for several seconds. Her best work came with her racket, and she broke back at love to make it 1-all, then again to go ahead 3-2. Safina began that eighth game with a double-fault and rolled her eyes. As mistakes accumulated, she muttered to herself or smashed her left palm with her racket.

On match point, Safina's second serve hit the net tape and popped up, sailing beyond the doubles alley.

"I was, like, 'Oh, my God. Double fault,'" Kuznetsova said.

When Kuznetsova would allow herself to imagine winning the French Open, she always pictured herself dropping to the racket, and in fact the awkwardness may this race ended didn't call for such a celebration. Instead, Kuznetsova simply turned to make eye contact with her coach and supporters in the stands, then walked to the net for a handshake and kisses on the cheek.

At the other end of the court, Safina covered her forehead with her left hand—disbelief? sadness all over her face. Tears spilled her racket.

"I was a little bit desperate on the court," said Safina, who appeared to be fighting back ties in the match and during the on-court trophy presentation. "I didn't stay tough mentally."

Kuznetsova did, which hasn't always been the case. Aside from her US Open championship, also in an all-Russian final, Kuznetsova has her own history of faltering in key moments. She entered Saturday 10-18 in tournament finals.

The French Open, in particular, was rife site of trouble. In 2004, Kuznetsova held a match point in the fourth round before losing. The next year, in the same round, Kuznetsova led 5-3 in the third set and held two match points before losing.

RAFAEL Dinaz's grip tough, opponent

Lakers say Game 2 will be way tougher

LOS ANGELES—THE LOS ANGELES LAKers are convinced they will see a different Orlando Magic team in Game Two of the NBA Finals on Sunday.

Orlando was outplayed, outhustled and outcoached in the series opener, a 100-75 blowout by Los Angeles, and Lakers guard Kobe Bryant said a repeat performance was unlikely.

"We'll have to face many games in this series where they shoot lights out," Bryant told reporters on Saturday.

"This is a team that can get blistering hot and we know that. We're just got to be ready."

The Magic used deadly accurate shooting from three-point to oust LeBron James and his Cleveland Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference finals but lost that touch against the Lakers.

Orlando connected on just 33-of-77 shots in Thursday's series opener, tying the 1980 St. Wayne Pistons for the second-lowest number of field goals ever in the finals.

Lakers veteran guard Derek Fisher said "you can't expect an Orlando team playing 24 percent again from the field" on Sunday.

"Even on film, we saw shots that they missed that they're capable of making and will make on the series unfolds," he said.

"We didn't see anything that tells us we're just going to be able to go out on the court and win the game just because we show up."

Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said his team lacked "toughness and energy" in the opinion of the fans of seven after but he was not going to make any wholesale changes.

Orlando has been criticized for its opening-game performance but Van Gundy said the Lakers "played really, really well." Reuters

BELMONT STAKES

It's a bird! It's Summer Bird!

NEW YORK—IT WAS SUMMER Bird, not Mine That Bird and jockey Calvin Borel, who'd be running down the long stretch and turn the Belmont Stakes on Saturday.

The upset ended Borel's bid to become the first jockey to win a memorial Triple Crown, and he failed to deliver on a gamesome tune he would capture the Belmont with the Irish gelding. Borel tame the Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird, then won the Preakness with the filly Rachel Alexandra.

Summer Bird, now tall at 11-1 odds, blew past Dunkirk and Mine That Bird to give jockey Kent Desormeaux a first-Belmont victory he desperately wanted.

Mine That Bird made a huge move outside and took a brief lead over Dunkirk.

But it was Summer Bird who pulled away for a 2¼-length victory over Dunkirk. Mine That Bird was third in the field of 10 3-year-olds.

Horse free

"I thought I was home free," Borel said, "but the other horses galloped by."

There wasn't any happier rider than Desormeaux.

Last year, he won the Derby and Preakness aboard Big Brown, only to have to pull up the colt in the Belmont. And in 2008, he brought Real Quiet into the Belmont for a Triple try only to get beat by Victory Gallop by a nose in a heartbreaking defeat.

"I hope from now on we'll talk about winning one," Desormeaux said.

There was an inquiry filed by Charlotte Mine's jockey Alan Garcia against Dunkirk for interference, but it was disallowed by the racing stewards.

Charlotte Mine was fourth, followed by Lou Gre, Flying Private, Baron Victory, Mr. Hot Stuff, Chocolate Candy and Miner's Escape.

The winning time for the 1½-miles was 2:27.54.

Mine That Bird was sent off as the 6-5 favorite, but he was no-input in the race, pulling Borel into contention sooner than anyone expected. AP

JOCKEY Kent Desormeaux guides Summer Bird to an upset victory. AP/AFP

Vettel claims Turkish pole

ISTANBUL—GERMANY'S SEBASTIAN VETtel put third ball on pole position for the Turkish Grand Prix on Saturday after pushing Formula One leader Jenson Button off his perched in the final seconds of qualifying.

Button's Brawn GP teammate Rubens Barrichello will start third on Sunday in a race that looks like a duel between the two teams with Red Bull's Australian Mark Webber completing the all-star lineup.

The pole was Vettel's career third and established the 21-year-old as favorite at a circuit where the winner has always started from the top the since the first race in Turkey in 2005.

Italian Jarno Trulli qualified fifth for Toyota, with Ferrari's 2007 world champion Kimi Raikkonen alongside him. Ferrari's Brazilian Felipe Massa qualified seventh. Reuters

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SJC Int'l Derby finals under way

ROGER SUPPOSTAR JAMMY PACQUIAO'S ENTRY (JAZZY THE GIANT) gets today in the 4-cock championship round of the 2009 SJC International 8-Cock Derby at the San Juan Coliseum.

Pacquiao's flathead fighter, Cebu Big Event, shares the lead with the victors of Eric Pineda and Greg Rasuda, Roy Briones (Mandaue Wild Rooster), Nelson Uy (Tanauan Warriors), Tony Mariño (Daing Al Star), Pete dela Pena and Madelaine Ebero (Pinoy Anniversary July 10-11) and Romeo Chua (Queen Bee Cavite) with four wins.

The first of some 100 fights will start early, said promoter Renato Dio.

KOREAN ICES Robinsons Land Corp. president Frederick D. Go (third from left) with world No. 3 and Beijing Olympic mixed doubles champions Shin Seung-chul and Lee Yong-dae and Korean coach Kim Jung-hee during Saturday's opening of sixth PDG-Partners Cup Invitational Badminton tournament at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

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No more heartaches for Amit

By Cedrif P. Tupas

FROM BEING BOOTED OUT OF THE NAtional team to becoming the country's first women world pool champion.

That's the transformation Aladdin Amit took in a span of 11 months.

The Manila City-born cue artist became the latest stunt of Philippine sports Saturday night when she ruled the 2009 Mind Sports World 10-Ball Championships at the SM North in Quezon City.

Before her rise to the top, the 27-year-old Amit lost the heart of her athlete. Despite her three Southeast Asian Games gold medals and an impressive second-place finish in the Mind Sports World 9-Ball Championship in 2007, Amit—along with Mary Ann Basas and Iris Ranola—was kicked out from the national team in July last year by then billiards and bowlers Congress of the Philippines president Ernesto Pajarillo.

But Amit shocked two-time world champion Lu Chia-Ming, 13-4, to the finals to earn a measure of vindication last Saturday.

Amit learned the sport at 13 years old while tagging along with father, Bobby, who often played at the neighborhood in Malate.

The sport took a backseat in 2004 as the no-nonsense graduate of the University of Santo Tomas worked to a full-career for a year.

Next, she admitted done during "control" to world No. 1 Rally Filbet, 1-5, in her first match of the five-day event before racking up eight straight wins, including a thrilling 9-8 victory over World No. 5 Annette "Black Widow" Lee.

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BUSINESS

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San Miguel eyes local mining ventures

Exec says group to pare down debt

By Dave C. Dandan

DIVERSIFYING CONGLOMERATE SAN MIGUEL CORP IS making big plans for Philippine mining, seen as an industry that can exponentially perk up domestic economic growth.

San Miguel president Ramon Ang said Southeast Asia's biggest food and beverage conglomerate, which has been diversifying into heavy industries, was also starting to pare down its debts while keeping enough for future acquisitions.

"In The Philippines, the potential of mining is so huge because we have a good deposit of gold, nickel and iron ore," Ang said.

"If you can develop it, it's big compared to existing players. We have so many ideas but we're doing everything quietly," he said.

San Miguel earlier obtained a foothold in the country's biggest power retailer Manila Electric Co. and oil refiner Petron Corp. It is also investing in dominant Liberty Telecom Holdings Inc., which it plans to access its vehicle for its foray into the highly competitive telecommunications business.

Ang said San Miguel was in talks with many groups and open to an array of opportunities but would like to keep details of its strategies and acquisitions strategy close to its chest.

San Miguel had declared an offshore mining opportunities tax, particularly in Indonesia. Earlier, investment banking giant Goldman Sachs offered a plan of Indonesia's second most valuable coal miner Adaro Energy but Ang said he did not make offered one to consult.

The conglomerate had sealed broken into the biggest [illegible] coal miner PT Bumi Resources when it controlling stockholder, the Bakrie family, was sell-

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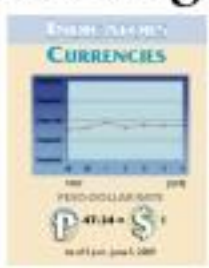


ABS-CBN posts record ad revenues

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. chalked up record-high revenues of P1.4 billion from Regular Channel 2 for the month of May, indicating robust second-quarter advertising spending after a lackluster first-quarter performance.

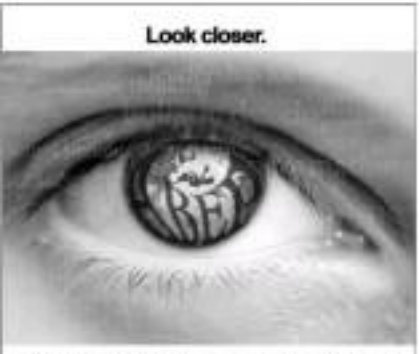
At daily airtime rates in June retained by the Channel 2 sales would likely reach P3.0 billion for the whole of the second quarter or nearly better than the P2.7 billion in sales in the first quarter and the P3.4 billion in sales in the second quarter of 2008, head of Channel 2 sales Jose Agustin Sarmiento Jr. said in a briefing on Friday.

The projected revenues for the second quarter, mostly from television and advertising sales, implied a projected year-on-year decline of 11.7 percent from a year ago and a further growth of 40.7 percent from a quarter ago.

"The casino advertisers are spending because people are buying. Good sale," Sarmiento said.

The second quarter also benefited from some favorable seasonality factors, as advertising spending is usually higher during the summer months as when companies break new con...

ABS-CBN B2



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Market rally seen to continue

LOCAL STOCKS may still have some gas to sustain its upward run next week, even as many fear two marked high price week constitute to potential top.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index surged another hypnosis last week to close at 2,520.68, led by the property and mining oil counters.

"Investors continue to scramble for positions in key index counters as the market's continued rise heightens investor uplifting as to the possibility of being left behind the market's rally," BH Securities said to its weekly commentary.

As seen in the past two weeks, BH Securities said the market had ... disconnected with the US equity market, continuing to pile up gains despite the latter's lackluster performance.

"A correction may still be forthcoming, but has to say more catalysts, the current should maintain the current uptrend," BH Securities said.

The market outlook is also supported by the favorable fundamentals as well as expectations that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will further ease interest rates to prevent an economic recession.

Among the key events to watch out for this week are the stockholders' meetings of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. tomorrow, as well as that of the Lopezes' Rockpoint Holdings Corp. on Thursday.

Manila Electric Co. is still scheduled to release its preliminary income to date by

MARKET B3

Maybank

BSP ready to cut rates in July meet

By Michelle V. Ferrer

THE MONEY BOARD OF PHILIPPINE (BSP) said it was prepared to further slash its key interest rates when the Monetary Board holds its next policy-setting meeting on July 9.

Even a minimum 25-basis-point rate cut will already pull down the BSP's overnight borrowing rate to a historic low of 4 percent.

According to BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., the monetary agency would not hesitate to again slash the policy rates, even after a series of rate cuts from December to May, if such a move would be necessary to help sustain a positive growth for the economy.

Last Friday, Tetangco said there was still more room for the BSP to cut policy rates and support efforts in pump-prime the economy given the easing in inflation.

Lower interest rates, which encourage individuals and businesses to borrow for consumption and investments, have a tendency to accelerate inflation. But the BSP said inflation was less of a concern as other measures down following economic slowing.

The BSP said factors that cause inflation to ease, such as weakening demand, currently outweigh other inflationary pressures.

The National Statistics Office reported last Friday that the annual inflation rate slowed down further to 3.3 percent in May from 3.8 percent in April and 6.4 percent in March. Economists have projected that inflation would continue falling in the coming months and reaching its one-year percent in the third quarter.

In the last policy-setting meeting of the Monetary Board, it decided to cut by 25 basis points the key policy rates for the fifth consecutive time. This brought the overnight borrowing and lending rates of the BSP to 4.25 and 6.25 percent, respectively.

The BSP said it had to ease monetary policy more given indications that the global economic downdraft, although seen to be bottoming out, would take some time to reverse.

The Philippine economy is partly dependent on exports to the US and Europe. With the anemic demand for goods in the developed world, Philippine exports have been recording double-digit declines since December.

Corporate income tax take down 3.3%

Q1 collection hits P85.9 billion

By Reena W. Domingo

CORPORATE INCOME TAX collection fell by 3.3 percent to P85.9 billion in the first quarter from P88.9 billion a year ago as businesses said the earlier economy continued to suffer from the impact of the global financial crisis.

Finance Undersecretary Gil S. Beltran said the figures were similar to the fourth quarter last year, when the country saw just starting to feel the impact of the crisis, with tax collection dipping by 23.8 percent year-on-year to P124.2 billion from P159.4 billion.

Beltran said the Department of Finance was cooperating with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) in studying how the government should measure whether positively or negatively, the effects of the downturn.

He added that the ongoing study was looking at how income tax rates could be used as a way to ease the pressure of the companies, based on a median sampling of 100 corporations, as well as individuals.

Beltran said that, initially, due to suggested that the corporate income rate but base on fiscal 20 reports, which were down by about 23 percent.

"So for individuals, the government implemented tax relief measures where the ceiling," he said. "This alone means P5b billion in foregone revenues."

In a related matter, Economic Planning Secretary Ralph G. Recto expressed concern about the economic cost of recent events related to immediately of the Constitution.

Recto said "political deadlocks" on Charter change" would have adverse and impact on the economy, especially at a time when the gross domestic product (GDP) posted only 0.4 percent growth in the first quarter.

GDP refers to the total value of goods and services produced and paid for within an economic territory for a given period.

"A key drag on growth was the 9.0 percent growth in personal consumption and the 15.5 percent contraction in capital formation," he said.

Recto said these factors are directly linked to public confidence and that an environment of political uncertainty and investment spending, which put downward pressure on government revenue.

"In this challenging time of the global economic crisis, let us not add more shocks to our economy that can be avoided. That is why we must be focused in our efforts to navigate the economy through the eye of global headwind."

In the first quarter, the government's tax effort fell by 1.4 percentage points to 13.3 percent of GDP, which the National Statistics Office valued at P1.74 trillion.

The tax effort refers to the ratio of tax collection to GDP or the total value of goods and services produced and paid for within an economic territory in a given period.

In the same period in 2008, total tax collection was 12.9 percent of GDP, which then amounted to P1.66 trillion.

TeleTech eyes two more sites in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

US-based business process outsourcing firm TeleTech Holdings Inc. plans to open at least two more call center centers in the country in addition to the 12 already operating in various parts of Luzon and the Visayas.

Richard Bodnar, country manager for the Philippines and chief operating officer for Asia operations, said the company was considering setting up its operations in the country by adding more personnel and even new sites.

The planned new sites, however, would not be opened this year as TeleTech Philippines still has capacity that could be tapped to meet its hiring targets.

"There's enough of new sites to be opened. Maybe not this year, but we're already looking at new locations. For this year, we'll just fill our existing capacity. We will have a lot," he told reporters Friday morning.

Options for locations of the new sites include Tarlac and nine new within Metro Manila, he said.

TeleTech aims to hit the 25,000-employee mark by the end of the year. It currently has more than 22,000 employees in 21 sites all over Luzon and the Visayas.

In Metro Manila, TeleTech has delivery centers in Pasay City, Novaliches in Quezon City and Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. The rest of its Luzon presence is in Cavite in Silang, Pampanga, Bacoor in Cavite, Lipa City in Batangas, and Santa Rosa in Laguna.

The company is also present in the Visayas with accounts in Cebu, Dumaguete, Bohol and Bacolod.

"There's a good chance we'll hit 25,000 employees this year. We have a lot of new business coming in," Bodnar said.

He added that the Philippines, which represented about 60 percent of TeleTech's Asian operations in terms of employee numbers, was a key part of the company's overall business.

"The Philippines has talent in place as a premier BPO destination. We're always looking at this next best opportunity," he said. "My role is to grow our Asian presence. We now have more than 30,000 employees in 27 countries. This region is integral to TeleTech."

Lame excuse for Con-ass

NO FREE LUNCH

Carlito F. Hidalgo

THE BRAZENNESS WITH WHICH THE majority in the Lower House crammed the now-infamous House Resolution No. 1109 through is yet another instance of sullen evasion of political brute force that patently runs down that mandate many of those despise—claiming "he got to do it because we're the majority".

The term is a throwback to the old days when both chambers of Congress were housed on different levels of the same building at the legislative Circle. But the adjective has taken on new meaning with the attraction of control members of the "House of Representatives." The tongue-in-cheek term used by a fellow Bayanan columnist Indeed, many believe that this cynical Lower House has sunk the Philippine legislature to its lowest point ever in our nation's political history.

Economic provisions

Proponents of the resolution would have us believe that it has become so urgent to amend the 1987 Constitution that we now have to resort to the find-fault method available to effect Charter change ("Cha-cha"). And that fast-track way is to convene the legislature into a constituent assembly ("Con-Ass") to act on proposed amendments. The purported administration-majority in the lower chamber acted "editorial" cleaner in the resolution, comes some room as to what the ought—is that the economic provisions of the current charter need urgent revision.

To quote: "Whereas, there is a specific proposal that for the Philippines to become economically competitive in attracting foreign investments and technology transfers that the economic provisions of the Constitution is proposed to be amended in an appropriate manner ..." The economic provisions being alluded to are those in Article XII on National Economy and Patrimony limiting foreign ownership in certain reserved economic activities to 40 percent. Could tearing up on these provisions really save our economy from recession at this time?

No urgency

There are two questions involved here: First, do we really need to have amendments now? Second, do we even need them amendments at all? The first question we can guide. The second is open to debate, and has indeed been debated for some time now. Let's tackle those one by one.

Are these legislators telling us that opening our economy even wider to foreign investments is essential to avert what the 2008 Christmas Cut heritage dirges of economists really tell us: recession out of the current downturn?

Well, I have news for them (or if they didn't know!). The UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) reports that flows of foreign direct investments (FDI) fell globally by 23 percent in 2008, and we'll likely fall even deeper in 2009. For developed countries, the source of the global downturn, the decline is even steeper at 50 percent. Note that much of what is reported as FDI are in the form of mergers and acquisitions, where existing enterprises merely change hands; thus, no new production and employment necessarily result. Greenfield investments, to those that start new productive activities, are projected to fall even more steeply. Will an express Constitutional amendment to permit full foreign ownership in the very few remaining restricted economic activities be the key to rejuvenating our economy at this time, then? (I could almost hear someone say ... "Hello?").

Wide enough

This brings us to the second, more debatable question. Is a constitutional amendment to eliminate all restrictions on foreign ownership even desirable or necessary at all? Consider the following:

First, foreign portfolio (mainly footloose) investments have been participation in the back in 18 years ago, with the Aquino administration's Foreign Investments Act of 1991. That law marked around our foreign investment policy from a "positive list" mode—where foreign participation was only allowed in a limited list of investment areas—to a "negative list" approach. Here, all activities were opened to foreign investment except those in a short list of strategic enterprises limited to Filipinos by the Constitution (e.g., public utilities, exploitation of natural resources). This opening up led to the surge in foreign investments that the economy reaped in the 1990s.

Second, even within that law remaining restrictions in fact, the government has found creative ways to open the way for foreign participation, such as through co-production, joint ventures, or production-sharing agreements, or in the case of mining, through the controversial Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) mechanism, which virtually opens mining to 100 percent foreign-owned companies. Some may disagree, but the door for foreign investors is wide enough. Other things are keeping them away.

But why even bother debating this issue? We've known all along that the economic pretensions are only being used by the Palace sycophants as a smokescreen. Clearly, the real agenda is to draft for a parliamentary system (forget about the "covenant" in the "whereas" clause promising no term extensions); this all becomes inexplicable if the whole thing is not just changed, thereby paving the way for perpetuating those now in power.

You think the Lower House has brought the economy to its knees? Think again.

Comments welcome at chidhi@gmail.com.ph.

Alcantara firm to invest in hydro electric projects

By Amy R. Rivera

THE ALCANTARA GROUP'S POWER SUBsidiary Cotsal Holdings Corp. is planning to invest at least $25 million in mini hydroelectric projects in Nagcarlan, Sariaya and Tayabas, a company official said.

"We want to build small hydro projects since our 200-megawatt coal fired power plant in Batangas," said Ian R. Tuason Jr., CFO of parent firm Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.

In an interview with the business, Tuason said the mini hydro facility would have a capacity of only 17 MW as this would be the run-of-the-river type.

A small-scale hydro power project such as this would not call for the construction of a dam, and would thus entail minimal investments, he said.

Tuason said the company was seeking project financing from both private and government financial institutions.

"This may be funded easily as this uses quality as a renewable energy project, which a lot of financial institutions may be interested and willing to finance. We are also checking if the BSP (Development Bank of the Philippines) has a specific facility for these types of projects," Tuason said.

Tuason further said the company is eyeing two more mini hydropower projects in the Negros area, where they were already in talks with prospective partners, and another one in South Cotabato.

At the moment, Tuason said the company was interested only in mini hydro power projects and had no intention of tapping other renewable energy sources such as wind, ocean or biomass.

Napocor buying coal for 700-MW Pagbilao plant

STATE-RUN NATIONAL POWER CORP. plans to buy 390,000 metric tons of steaming coal next month, to supply the requirements of its 700-megawatt Pagbilao power plant in Quezon.

Napocor said it needed to obtain contracts for the supply and delivery of coal as soon as possible, even as it insisted the public that it had sufficient inventory for its power plants.

The purchase was cautious by supply deals involving 390,000 metric tons of coal, had failed, as suppliers were reportedly turned off by the low contract price set by Napocor. The volume was meant for the Pagbilao and the 1,400-MW Sual power plant in Pangasinan.

A Bacolod-based bid was made to sell "at no loss," according to Edward P. Aquilizan, chair of Napocor's bids and awards committee.

Last Wednesday, the committee said the tender for 390,000 MT of coal for its Sual power facility had "failed," after the four bidder, Indonesian firm PT Delta Bilimoria international and its local partner Mindoro Energy Corporation Inc., failed to submit several eligibility requirements as specified under bidding procedures.

Aquilizan, however, said PT Delta and Mindoro Energy Corporation was given time to appeal the ruling and submit a motion for reconsideration to Napocor.

Aquilizan said that, as of the previous month, Napocor's total fuel stock levels of coal inventory for Sual and 43 days worth of supplies for Pagbilao.

The Sual and Pagbilao facilities, along with the 200-MW Naga and the privatized 600-MW coal-fired power plants, accounted for about a fourth of the 8,000 megawatts of dependable capacity in the Luzon grid. — Amy R. Rivera

Chloride starts RP operations

SECURE POWER SOLUTIONS PIONEER and London stock Exchange-listed Chloride said it would continue its investment and expansion plans in the Asia Pacific region, including the Philippines.

The move it in line with the company's need to further boost its growth in the region, which the company believes is an ideal place for its products, particularly for Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and contact center markets.

Chloride president Lambert Tuason said in a statement the company was bullish on the region, especially since the Asia Pacific market accounted for 21 percent of the worldwide UPS market, which represented a total of $2.5 billion in 2008.

"With market demands company Frost & Sullivan forecasting the world UPS (uninterruptible power supply) to grow by an average of 8.6 percent over the next five years, we need to double our presence in the region to boost our growth and develop our recent presence in countries like Vietnam," he said.

Chloride's Asia Pacific Vision leader Jean Jacques Ioi in Singapore early last year, followed by offices in Vietnam, Korea and the Philippines.

San Miguel . . .

Previous page B3

ing assets to restructure debts.

For its part, Aap said San Miguel had started to use excess cash to reduce its debt, such as the parent and subsidiary levels.

As of end-March last year, San Miguel at the parent level had P92 billion worth of debts and notes payable.

ABS-CBN . . .

From page B2

pegao. Also, ABS-CBN felt that businesses should had cut back during the first quarter started to gain confidence during the second quarter.

But Shodai is cautioned that the May sales that may worry much stronger than ever in the summer of 2010 when political and election spending was very high given the legislative and local elections held that year.

This year, political advocacy spending through the so-called info-commercials, increased to list by 7 percent of total sales ahead of the 2010 presidential election.

Pegaso said it remained to be seen whether the increase in spending would be weighed down by the country's sluggish first-quarter gross domestic product growth of 0.4 percent.

Crew Gold seeks partner for Maco gold project

Apex parent firm posts $11.9-M loss

By Rica T. Gichoxoha

RECESSION-HIT Crew Gold Corp. raced to raise at least $12 million for its Mindoro mine in gold-rich Compostela Valley in Mindanao.

The UK-based miner is then looking for a partner to invest in Apex Mining Co. Inc., which operates the Maco project.

Crew Gold, which reported a net loss of $11.9 million for the quarter that ended March 31, 2009, has a 72.9-percent stake in Apex.

In its financial report for the first quarter of 2009, Crew Gold said it is now "continuing to explore strategic alternatives with potential partners."

"The principal reason Crew Gold was hit by the recession on their current advance results ending January 2009, we were on target," Apex president and CEO Deguzman Contreras told in an interview.

Contreras said potential investors were oblivious whether through stock purchase, a buy-in arrangement or joint venture.

"Whatever our principal could agree to," Contreras said.

If Crew Gold were to sell shares of Apex, it would not be the first time. In early April, Crew Gold announced that it had reached a tentative agreement to sell the shares of Nelsonia Gold Mine A/S of Greenland to Angus & Ross Plc of the UK for $13 million cash.

For the Maco mine in the Philippines, Contreras said, "we need about $12 million just for the concentrator facilities." Apex's operational expenses are already being funded internally.

Having concentrator plants will enable Apex to optimize the extraction of gold and other metals such as copper and zinc from the ore, according to a company report to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

The mine site also needs stockpiling, grinding and flotation facilities.

When all the additional investments and equipment are in place, the mine can double its daily production capacity to 1,000 tons per day (tpd) from the current 500 tpd.

"We are trying to target 700 (tpd) perhaps at the end of this year. It depends what we can get to 1,000 tpd," Contreras said.

Apex's chief executive officer, Noel E. Cruz, said the company aims to attain the rate of 1,000 tpd by early 2010 so it is now busy consulting for metallurgical testing.

The added mine can fill production capacity to reached, the company said expected its employee base soars.

In early 2009, the company rehired its workforce to 262 contractuals and 770 regulars from 349 contractuals and 944 regulars in 2008.

Quarterly production of gold from domestic operations are decreased by a quarter to 3,758 ounces from 5,000 ounces in the same period last year due to a flash flood in the engine which impacted the mine around January.

Apex said it was not expecting to produce profits from Maco until 2010, after commercial operations start.

INQUIRER

Metrobank strengthens partnership with OFWs

INFOTECH

Text us your feedback (name+message+comment+message to 2327 (Globe) or 380 (Smart))

PCs turn into fashion statements

By Raquel P. Gomez

PERSONAL COMPUTERS (PCs) used to have a boring, stocky look, turning any office space into a cold and serious affair.

But now, PCs are looking gayer, becoming fashionable and trendy—chic products that will match user's living room, office nook or attire.

Technics, in the form of a notebook, netbook or desktop, has suddenly become hip and cool.

In this era of Web 2.0 and the so-called digital lifestyle, the PC has become something you can't live without—the intelligent box that runs to acquire more power, speed and technological finesse.

Still reputedly the world's leading PC maker, but keen to the forefront of PC design and esthetics.

Just take a look at the new crop of PC products—from desktops to notebooks—the company launched in Beijing recently. Its looks and texture about, the new PCs are alluring and will surely be part of your wish list this Christmas.

On hand were the HP PC designers, the stars of the show, patiently discussing the trends and notes they've put in the lineup. Trade Goetz or Rishish, building it successful PC fashion shows.

Since Wolff and Randall Martin, design guru at HP said consumers tend to go for tech products with "classic iconic designs, rich black finishes and chrome highlights, sweeping lines and curves, high gloss panels, nice pants contours, as well as side details, slim form factor, and overall simple and clean look."

And this is, by the way, based on a consumer survey.

The two said that the youth, particularly women, tend to choose PCs that enhance their identity or self expression. A big chance for a "green" PC, or PCs that are friendly to environment, are also high on the survey.

As to color preferences, although black and silver were on top of consumers preferences, 8 percent of those surveyed prefer notebooks with colors such as pink, white and red.

"Color is best suited for the limited edition products, for example the red HP Mini 1000se 'Fan edition,'" said Randall.

Among the HP products cancelled were sleek newly designed desktops (Compaq Presario CQ3000, HP Pavilion Ultrabase e3000, and the HP Pavilion Elite e9000), which all feature glossy piano finish casings.

Complementing these PCs are redesigned range of 18 to 25 inch monitors, the 23-inch hd1080 HP2309m, the 24-inch widescreen LCD Compaq Presario Q1859, the 20-inch widescreen LCD Compaq Presario Q2009 and the 21.5 inch widescreen LCD Compaq Presario Q2159.

HP also introduced an ultra-sexy desktop the 8082CC SoC (all-in-one), an entry level one-touch wonder PC that combines "impeccable design with traditional functionality" best suited for home environment.

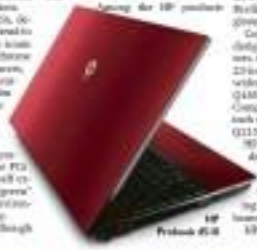
HP also introduced its frosh Pavilion—power notebooks for business use that feature widescreen display and matte and glossy note and monitor finishes on the covers and interiors.

The HP Pavilion dv3 is a power 13.3 inch notebook (3 inch thick) with detailed imprints that weigh only 1.6 kg. It is packed with a 6-cell battery.

With the success of the old HP Mini Release Two offering used black HP 110, the company also launched more colors for its netbook line. Expect "pink chic" and "winter coral" editions that will have a starting price of only $299 and bundled with Windows XP.

According to Randall, consumers may expect rich user experience combined with form factor from the new HP lineup.

In short, the new HP PCs are not only useful, they have also become more pretty.



Microsoft heightens online child protection

ON THE AVERAGE, A SINGLE CHILD pornography website gets one million site visits each month, according to a recent study published on the matter by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

More importantly there are an estimated 100,000 individuals involved in organized child pornography rings worldwide, and the number of victims is increasing, the study found.

The targets are also becoming younger, with up to 80 percent of published children being 10 years old or less.

Because of this, Microsoft recently launched its new and safer Web browser called Internet Explorer 8 (IE8)—the latest version of the world's most popular browser that has been built from the ground up and designed for the way people really are the Web.

According to the company, the new IE8 is part of its stepped up campaign to protect children in cyberspace. "A child also provided users with an Internet experience that is "faster, easier and safer than ever before."

Aside from enhancing consumer, Microsoft also offers tools designed to protect users' privacy and data. "The navigator first online safety it quickly becoming a major concern for parents in the Internet age. Part of our effort to help to increase online security, we have introduced new features in Internet Explorer 8 that address users' concerns about online safety," said Clint Topnall, product manager for Windows Client, Microsoft Philippines.

UNICEF Representative Gianina Tacchi pointed out that the Philippine Tax no comprehensive law at the moment to prevent the spread of child pornography and the problem in the region and/or to a falling the worse."

"UNICEF, together with other child rights actors, is now working for the passage of the anti-child pornography bill, which will be a great achievement (in the) effort to protect children and prevent the problem from escalating further," she said.

The Internet has become a new playground for pornophiles and traffickers, Tacchi added.

"The use of children and young people in pornographic materials is a grave violation of their rights, whatever their role in the process. The Philippines is believed to be one of the producers of pornographic material involving children, which is then sent around the world, often via the Internet. We are happy that Microsoft is playing a role in making the Internet safe for children."

In line with the IE8 launch, Microsoft also released a set of guidelines aimed at helping secure children from undesirable online experiences.

Parents or guardians are asked to:

- Encourage kids to share their Internet experiences with them.
- Teach kids to trust their instincts.
- Help your kids choose user names that do not reveal personal information about them.
- Make sure that kids know the importance of privacy.
- Teach kids that the difference between right and wrong is the same on the Internet as it is in real life.
- Show kids how to respect others online.
- Encourage kids to respect the property of others online.
- Tell kids that they should never meet online friends or strangers in person.
- Teach kids that not everything they read or see online is true.
- Monitor children's online activity with advanced Internet software.

"For Microsoft, the safety of children it a priority. Through this campaign, we are getting more people involved in this cause and we hope to have a better and stronger chance of protecting our children from potential threats," said Rafael Rollin, marketing director, Microsoft Philippines.

"We are committed to playing our part in increasing awareness and facilitating partnerships that address issues like this, and we're joining forces so they take a stand for the protection of Filipino children," he added.

(Sachie L. Jocson)

Yahoo! unveils Pinoy user-oriented 'Project Purple'

By Dracie L. Lucas

HOW DOES ONE HARNESS the collective power of the increasing number of Filipinos who go online each day?

How does one channel the raw potential of millions of talented users seeking an outlet for their creative energies online?

Yet Internet company Yahoo!, the answer is a massive, Filipino-oriented social movement called Project Purple." It aims to help Filipinos find, share and connect in the things that matter most to them.

According to the company, the new project empowers users by encouraging them to be creative, innovative, express their opinions and be heard and listened to in a fun and fresh way. In short, it is an effort that helps live up to Yahoo!'s brand promise to transform the lives of people, societies and economies.

"Project Purple is a social movement and is open to everyone—online and offline," said Jojo Abacan-ora, general manager of the Philippines, "because we are rallying Pinoys to let Purple and utilize the Internet to run higher."

He added that the Internet and Yahoo! have become "essential services to people and a great equalizer for people to express their interests."

Purple is Yahoo!'s corporate color which reflects the company's brand personality and philosophy of "innovation, uniqueness, creativity and passion."

With the campaign, Yahoo! aims to call out to all Filipinos who share the same vision to bring innovation and a positive change in the Philippines.

As catalyst for Project Purple, Yahoo! empowers Filipinos through Internet services that enable them to pursue their passion. Through a creative mix of online and offline initiatives, Yahoo! Project Purple brings movements to the Pinoy Filipinos are passionate about and how they can be found on Yahoo!

"The social movement started in the United States with the 2008 'Hearing Purple' campaign," Abacan-ora said. "We are happy to bring this to the Philippines—the very first country outside the US where there are millions of creative, innovative and passionate Pinoys. Today, Yahoo! is excited to connect the country together in this campaign and we expect many more to join us in the coming months."

Joining the social movement are top Philippine and global companies as well as popular Pinoy artists.

Those include Ayala Land Inc., Blackberry, Canon Philippines, Globe Telecom, Honda Philippines, Kenpo Kenwood Philippines, and Nesky Philippines. Participating local artists are Aaron Rosero, Anjo Bolado, Bjorn Rondez, Beth Parreño, Dru Sjodin, Chelsbun Yuncabinay, Paul Imbong and Pat Valdellon.

Pinoy users can be part of this social movement by joining the "Purple Herd" on the Yahoo! Philippines Front Page (www.yahoo.com.ph), attending the Purple Herd Tour across Metro Manila and supporting Pinoy Liberals aligned with the campaign.

Reduction in Malampaya tax rate bucked

By Reena W. Domingo

A GOVERNMENT TAX THINK TANK IS opposing proposed laws aimed at lowering power costs by reducing the government royalties on indigenous sources of energy like the Malampaya natural gas.

The National Tax Research Center (NTRC), a unit of the Department of Finance, said in a six-page position paper dated June 2, that House Bill No. 6267 and Senate Bill No. 1698 seek to bring down royalties to 2 percent of net proceeds from the fields.

The bills were filed by Rep. Salvador S. Pesa Jr. (Cagayan, 3rd district) and Sen. Jonathan A. dela Cruz (Abakada Guro party list).

The indigenous resources include crude oil, natural gas, coal and geothermal energy.

The NTRC said the proposal goes far beyond what is a fixed-range relative to contractors and operators engaged in the energy project that use these resources, considering that a larger portion of the proceeds would accrue to the latter.

"Aside from the numerous tax and custom incentives granted to these contractors or operators, even their income tax and branch profit remittance liabilities are also assumed by the government," the NTRC added.

Currently, the government has a share of net proceeds from oil at 0.6 percent; natural gas, 15.11 percent; coal, 2 to 5 percent; and geothermal, 4.3 percent.

Net proceeds pertain to income less the recovery of cost, which is set at 70 percent of the gross income for oil and gas, and 80 percent for coal and geothermal.

In the case of oil, contractor and operator are also allowed to remove 7.5 percent of gross income if Filipinos are taking part in the project.

Out of the government's share of net proceeds, natural gas companies get to remove 5.14 percent of the project's gross income while oil firms get 2.9 percent and geothermal firms, 1.7 percent.

Also, natural gas companies take out for the profit that they avail as parent firms abroad 1.75 percent of gross income from the government's share of the proceeds.

No recession in RP, BSP says

By Michelle V. Ramos

AMID PERSISTENT CONCERNS that the Philippines is headed for a slump this year—fueled by the unrelentingly disappointing growth in the first quarter—the thought dawned on Filipinos stressed that the economy would not slide into a recession.

"There will be no recession," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr. told Philstar when asked if the Philippines would follow the trend of its neighboring economies that had already contracted.

Tetangco had said that there were reasons to be optimistic as economic pressures—strong remittance inflows, investor appetite—slowly recovering and the BPO sector continues to grow.

The BSP has projected that remittances sent by overseas Filipino workers, which largely determine the level of household consumption, would reach $18.4 billion this year, or about the same as last year.

The BSP did not agree with forecasts by some economists that remittances would substantially drop this year because of wage cuts and layoffs in the United States and other advanced economies.

The BSP said many other labor markets—including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Japan—were opening up and have maintained their need for labor.

An economy is said to be in recession if it records two consecutive quarters of year-on-year decline in gross domestic product.

GDP, the most common measure of how wealthy an economy is, refers to the sum value of the values of goods produced and services rendered within an economy in a given period.

In the first quarter, the economy still grew, albeit at a measly 0.4 percent, the slowest in 10 years.

This prompted speculations that the Philippines would come just as Asian neighbors in the list of countries in recession due to the global economic crisis.

Tetangco also said that the deceleration in inflation would encourage the public to spend more.

The National Statistics Office reported last week that the annual inflation rate dropped further to 3.3 percent in May.

For 2009, BSP said inflation would settle at only between 2.5 and 4.5 percent, from last year's average of 9.3 percent.

Tetangco said the BSP was prepared to implement more measures that would help accelerate growth of the economy following the non-event growth in the first quarter.

He said the cut in the BSP's key interest rates by a total of 175 basis points since December last year was expected to normalize economic activities.

The latest 25-basis-point rate cut brought the BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates at 4.25 and 6.25 percent, respectively.

The cut in the overnight borrowing rate encourages banks to lend more of their funds instead of parking the money to the central bank.

On the other hand, a lower lending rate influences banks to cut the interest rate they charge their customers.

The BSP says more to encourage bank lending and borrowing, which are needed to spur investments and encourage jobs.

Gov't managers pin hopes on remittances, BPO sector

Foreign chambers back extra school years

By Abigail L. Ho

THE JOINT FOREIGN CHAMBERS has urged the government to tap official development assistance to enhance the country's educational system, particularly by adding another two years to basic primary and secondary education.

"The Philippine government can get help through ODAs from Japan, the US and Europe. The Philippines has the shortest basic education system in the region. Most of its neighbors already have 12-year systems," Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines vice president Nobuo Fujii said in an interview.

The additional two years will be helpful, especially since most companies hire graduates that are at least 18 years old. With two more years of education, they can already be hired when they finish high school," he added.

He also said that the country's educational system needs to be revised, including qualified teaching staff and other resources.

GDA could also be tapped to improve these.

"We can push for our government for that," he said.

In a recent paper, the JFC said education was key to increasing the country's chance of weathering the economic storm.

However, the current quality of education in the country was not necessarily in keeping pace with the changing economic landscape.

The paper stated that all levels of education in the country had "deteriorated for many years."

"Rapid economic progress is not possible without a well educated workforce. We support a massive increase in the education budget and extending basic education by two years, from the current 10 years, one of the shortest in the world," the paper said.

"The 300,000 teachers should have more resources. Huge investments in physical school facilities are needed. Students entering the workforce have weak English, math, science, logic and technological skills. These should be improved to meet the requirements of a modernizing economy," it added.

Seipi, Tesda ink deal to 'retool' workers

THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) has earmarked P100 million to "retool" workers in the semiconductor and electronics sector, in an effort to equip them with new skills that they can tap when the industry picks up.

The retooling program is being done under a memorandum of agreement with the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi).

According to Association of Major Personnel Administrators chair Antonio del Rosario, the training program would be done in 10 batches, with each batch provided 1 P10-million budget.

"The first P10 million has already been given and the program ongoing. That will be subject to Tesda's audit. After that, we can proceed with the next batches," he said.

He related that this was the perfect time to conduct retooling and retooling as most manufacturing plants were not operating at full capacity.

The giant companies that he met to recall their employees and other workers to training program.

"This agreement is meant to enhance the skills of our engineers and technicians so that when the economy turns for the better, we have more prime capacities are not fully utilized now, we have time to train our engineers and technicians," he said.

Apart from the Tesda training program, he said Seipi had also signed a deal with the Department of Labor and Employment for the conduct of livelihood and entrepreneurial training, which would be particularly useful to displaced workers in the industry.

In an earlier interview, he said companies in the industry had started to rehire, with plant production starting to pick up.

"There are companies now that are rehiring workers, and there are companies that are repositioning themselves in picking up," he said.

"Those who were laid off are coming back, and we haven't heard of companies still implementing shortweek schemes. Some are even operating overtime," he added.

Companies now are starting to boost their capacity in a bid to rebuild inventories in preparation for future demand, Abigail L. Ho.

NUEVA ECIJA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION TO BID

DESCRIPTION — QUANTITY

1 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 12.5 Degrees — 1 unit
2 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, Tangent — 1 unit
3 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 30 Degrees — 1 unit
4 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, Dead End — 1 unit
5 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 90 Degrees — 1 unit
6 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 60 Degrees — 1 unit
7 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 45 Degrees — 1 unit
8 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 15 Degrees — 1 unit
9 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 75 Degrees — 1 unit
10 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 90 Degrees — 1 unit
11 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 105 Degrees — 1 unit
12 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 120 Degrees — 1 unit
13 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 135 Degrees — 1 unit
14 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 150 Degrees — 1 unit
15 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 165 Degrees — 1 unit
16 Monopole Steel Poles, 69kV, 180 Degrees — 1 unit

Submission and opening of bids proposals shall be on June 15, 2009, Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the NUEVA ECIJA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. Bids or bids received after the prescribed time shall be returned unopened to the bidder or to the authorized representative. Late bids shall not be accepted.

NEECO I reserves the right to reject any or all bids without any reason, waive any formality therein, accept bids/proposals deemed most advantageous to the Government and assumes no obligation to inform/advise the bidder/proponent for the reason why his bid was not accepted. In the preparation of the bid, bidder's attention is hereby drawn to the provisions of the Code of Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (RA 6713).

ENGR. LORNA G. TAYAG
Chief, Operations

Noted by:

ENGR. LORENZO L. PATAG
Acting Manager

BID - June 15, 2009

INVITATION TO BID

The Board of Directors of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids from eligible bidders for the following:

1. Refrigerated Vans
2. Dump Trucks
3. Backhoe
4. Wheel Loader
5. Motor Grader
6. Concrete Mixer
7. Concrete Pump
8. Concrete Vibrator
9. Generator Set
10. Air Compressor
11. Welding Machine
12. Water Truck
13. Fire Truck
14. Ambulance
15. Prime Mover
16. Low Bed Trailer
17. Forklift
18. Pick-up Truck
19. Sedan
20. Van
21. Motorcycle

Bidding documents may be purchased starting June 8, 2009 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 per set at the Cashier's Office, 2nd Floor, Building 229, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Bids must be submitted on or before 10:00 a.m. of June 22, 2009 at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Building 229, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stipulated in the bidding documents.

The SBMA-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality therein, or accept the most advantageous bid to the government without assigning any reason therefor.

ATTY. ARMANDO M. CRUZ
Chairman, BAC

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT (ARCCESS)
San Fernando, Pampanga

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid:

This National Competitive Bidding is open to all qualified contractors as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement and Use of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers and Guidelines for Evaluation and Use of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers.

1. Event Organizer for the Breastfeeding Hygiene Orientation (ABC P1,000,000.00)
2. Event Organizer for the Mount Pinatubo Commission (Provincial Engineering Office) Program Coordinators Week in Back with the National Convention for Provincial Officers (ABC P1,000,000.00)
3. Event Organizer for the Nutrition Month 2009 Celebration (ABC P1,000,000.00)

Qualified contractors should have experience in conducting special events or activities, health and related concerns. (Please see Terms of Reference for details of the project).

Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the Project Management Office and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours.

Expected Schedule of Activities:
a. Publication of Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid — June 8, 2009
b. Submission of Eligibility Requirements — June 18, 2009
c. Post-qualification of bidders and Bid Evaluation — June 19, 2009 to July 10, 2009
d. Submission of Bids — Technical & Financial Bids — July 1, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
e. Opening of Technical Bids — July 1, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
f. Opening of Financial Bids — July 1, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) — P 10,000,000.00

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or to annul the award at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for such action.

(Sgd.) CARLOS MANUEL DE LA CRUZ
Deputy Executive Director and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

BID - June 8, 2009

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) is inviting offers for lease by way of individual Sealed Bids, real property (land) for commercial use with various sizes located at Manila Harbour Center, City of Manila.

Terms of Reference and Bid Proposal Form can be secured free of charge at the Office of the Manager, Investment Department, at 4th Floor, Room 405, Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, City of Makati starting June 08, 2009.

Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on June 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m., Rm. 602, Tadurian Hall, Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, City of Makati. Schedule of submission and opening of bids shall be announced during the said conference.

The Home Development Mutual Fund reserves the right to reject any or all offers or accept such proposals as may be considered advantageous to the HDMF. Further, the Fund assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the proponents for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of the offer.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Jose Rommel S. Bayan at 848-52-62 or visit our Corporate website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or email us at jsbayan@pagibigfund.gov.ph

(Sgd.) EMMA LINDA B. FARIA
OIC/SO, Support Services Cluster

BID - June 8 and 15, 2009

Market . . .

From page B1

First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong led by FLTT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, who has made an offer to buy San Miguel Corp.'s 25-percent stake in the country's biggest power retailer.

Mining stocks are also back in favor, especially given rising interest among big groups like First Pacific. The mining-oil counter surged 1.5 percent last week led by leading mining player Philex, which confirmed talks on an affiliated overseas company had a break-all deal of the coast of Vietnam. Boris C. Chavier

BSP ready . . .

From page B1

Dragged down by the plunge in export earnings, the economy—measured in terms of gross domestic product—grew by a measly 0.4 percent in the first quarter, the slowest in 10 years.

GDP growth in the first quarter prompted speculation that the Philippines would soon be in a recession. The NEDA moreover has maintained that the country would not suffer from a recession.

The BSP said the policy rate cuts done since November, plus the likely easing in the future would help keep the economy part a possible recession.

Monetary authorities, however, urged the national government to complement actions being done by the BSP with higher public spending. The BSP said the government should maximize the P1.4-trillion national budget for the year and fulfill its commitments to jump-prime the economy through higher spending on infrastructure and social services.

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BUSINESS

Banks seen to reverse declining profit in '09

By Michelle V. Ruiz

BANKS THIS YEAR ARE EXPECTED TO recover from the slump in profitability seen in 2008 as they engage more in alternative sources of income, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

More and more banks are increasing their fee-based income from services such as fund management and arrangement of bond issuances, among others, the BSP said.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said income from these activities would add to bank earnings from lending—the industry's core business—and offset the slowdown in generating income from treasury operations.

"Banks will have better profit this year than last year due to increase in fee-based income," Tetangco said Friday. "Most banks are being tested in the capital market."

In 2008, combined net income of the country's banking industry dropped by 34 percent to P41.4 billion from P63 billion, the previous year. Industry sources said the decline in profitability of banks last year was largely due to weaker earnings from treasury trading and other treasury operations.

Although banks continued to raise profit from lending, many of them posted a decline in income from treasury operations.

Despite the lower net income in 2008, the BSP said the country's banking sector remained in a better position than those of neighboring countries and other advanced economies. The BSP said the fact that the country's banking sector still posted net income in 2008—while those of other economies had sought government help to bail them out—meant that the effect of the global turmoil on the country's financial sector was minimal.

Tetangco earlier said that the country's banking system remained sufficiently liquid and that a credit crunch—which has been crippling other economies—would not likely occur in the Philippines.

Because banks remain awash in cash, they are capable of helping sustain economic growth, the BSP said.

The willingness of banks to extend loans will help businesses by providing them sources of funding, Tetangco said.

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BUSINESS Monday

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Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business/Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espeo

Steady RP goes, grows

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S GROSS DOMESTIC product grew by only 0.4 percent in the first quarter, the lowest in a decade.

But given the fact that other economies in Southeast Asia already contracted because of the fallout from the global economic downturn, the small growth provides enough reason to be optimistic about the country's prospects this year.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry certainly is.

And in an interview with the Inquirer, PCCI president Edgardo Lacson expressed no worry for a confident that the Philippines will not slide into a recession this year and that signs that the industry is taking to insulate the Philippine economy more than the worst effects of what is said to be a long and deep global slowdown.

Q. How would you describe the way the Philippines is weathering the global downturn?

A. The country is weathering the global economic crisis quite well, given that our macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong. Although exports have fallen by 30 percent over the last quarter, net gross dollar reserves continue to increase. Inflation is at below 5 percent, while consumer spending continues to be upbeat.

Stimulus package

In the last six months, PCCI has championed the provision of a stimulus package for pump-priming activities primarily for infrastructure spending. To date, PCCI has packaged over P201 billion worth of private sector-led infrastructure spending that will enable to generate three-fourth of new jobs and provide development spillover effects in the economy, most especially the countryside.

One thing that has made the differences between the Asia crisis and the current global crisis, the Philippines' exposure now is low compared to before, at the same time, the growth of remittances has made the country more prepared and to better cope to cope with the crisis.

Q. Do you think the Philippines has what it takes to get out of the crisis stronger than ever? How and why?

A. I think we are in the best position of March to [illegible]

PCCI PRESIDENT Edgardo Lacson

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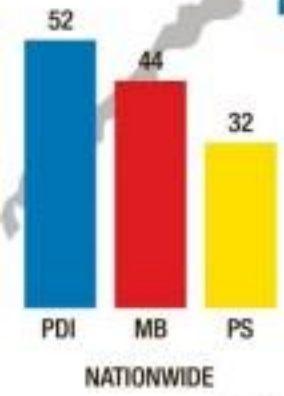
"Dakal a Salamat"

"Maraming Salamat!"

"Dios Mabalos!"

"Madamu nga Salamat"

"Daghang Salamat!"



"Tey Bong Nawa Hu Kuy!"

Thank you Philippines for consistently choosing the Inquirer!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer is again the country's No.1 newspaper in the Nielsen Media Index for the first quarter of 2009.

ABC broadsheet readers, read yesterday
2009 Nielsen Media Index Q1

Steady RP ...

From page B1 /

to take advantage of the benefits and opportunities over the world economy rebounds, hopefully by mid-year. We have learned our lesson during the past major financial crisis, and we have adopted these lessons in our current monetary and fiscal policy.

Another reason why we can survive the crisis and remain strong is that our banking sector remains fundamentally sound and stable. Government has been very serious in undertaking fiscal reform, which have lowered the deficit and the national debt in recent years to stay up-spending to combat the economic slowdown.

OFW remittances

Also, tremendous help has been channeled to the economy through the OFW remittances which continues to be stable at $17 billion per year even at crisis level. We also have strong economic activities prompted by high growth of services sectory. Job displacement has been minimal considering the crisis in our countries.

Q: What do you think are the areas of potential growth in RP that will lead to an increase in GDP?

A: The most dynamic sector right now are the services-driven industries, primarily business process outsourcing (BPO) because of relatively cheaper business costs and human resource competitiveness, tourism, healthcare, retirement and medical tourism, cyberservices, agribusiness (primarily for exports), mining, property and construction, shipbuilding, maritime, logistics and shipping, and retail trade.

Among these sectors, the BPO, tourism and healthcare industries are getting a lot of ground in terms of revenue and employment demand. Even with the onset of the global economic crisis, these sectors continue to thrive, making them areas of economic growth and stability in the coming years.

The most untapped sector but holds a lot of potential is the mining industry. The Philippines is one of the top 10 mineral provinces in the world. While investments in this area have long been championed and promoted, issues related to environmental protection and indigenous rights continue to block efforts to make the sector ideal for economic development.

Q: What have your chamber chambers been saying about the crisis? What sectors are feeling the brunt of the crisis?

A: PCCI members are feeling the effects of crisis due to lower demand. The sectors which were most badly hit were primarily the exporters and those in the electronics industry. The tourism sector is also experiencing difficulty, including the garments and furniture industry.

We need to find ways to improve our export performance. The world be addressed by finding other markets for our export products. We need to find other markets for Philippine products in order to boost exports. As of now, eight of the top 10 economies of our trading partners, the weaker the demand for Philippine goods.

On the tourism front, with the number of foreign visitors expected to decline this year, we would need to supplement by promoting domestic tourism. We could encourage Filipinos to explore the Philippines instead of going abroad. It is possible that our too many foreign visitors will come around in the next two years, maybe even longer.

BPO industry

Amid all these, we believe that the BPO industry will continue to flourish. The Philippines has a very competitive BPO industry, which will continue to grow despite the economic slowdown this year. However, we need to diversify and focus on high-value BPO services like animation, IT services, medical and legal transcription, engineering design and software development.

Q: What is PCCI doing to help the companies in the country weather the storm?

A: True to its mission as the "recognized voice" of Philippine business, PCCI organized an Economic Briefing For the Top 2,000 to give members of the business community a clearer picture of what has transpired, what lies ahead and what needs to be done to keep our heads above water.

PCCI also convened the business organization in the country including the Joint Foreign Chambers to formulate the priority legislations that needs to be passed for the development of business and to stimulate investments.

Q: Where do you think government can step in?

A: In the face of the global meltdown, the government did the right thing in providing a stimulus package called the "Economic Resiliency Plan (ERP)," which is a very good strategy to stay afloat and avert negative growth. The ERP will help minimize the impact of the global economic downturn through measures aimed at stimulating production in all sectors of society.

The ERP is being put in place as two-thirds of the world is in recession due to the global economic crunch. The Philippines has managed to sustain its growth because of past and ongoing reforms to ensure soundness of its macroeconomic fundamentals.

The ERP entails enacting measures through lower revenue collection, enhancement of cash liquidity, access to credit and low interest rates, and more effective spending. It seeks to ensure stable growth, save and create jobs, provide assistance to the most vulnerable sectors, ensure low and stable prices and improve competitiveness in preparation for the global economic rebound.

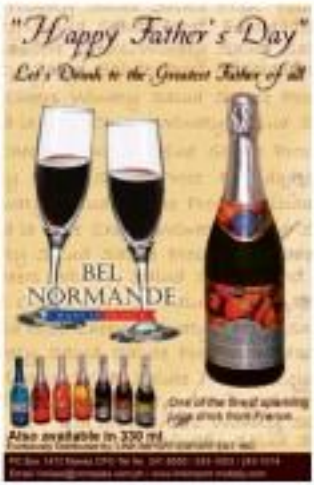
Priority bills

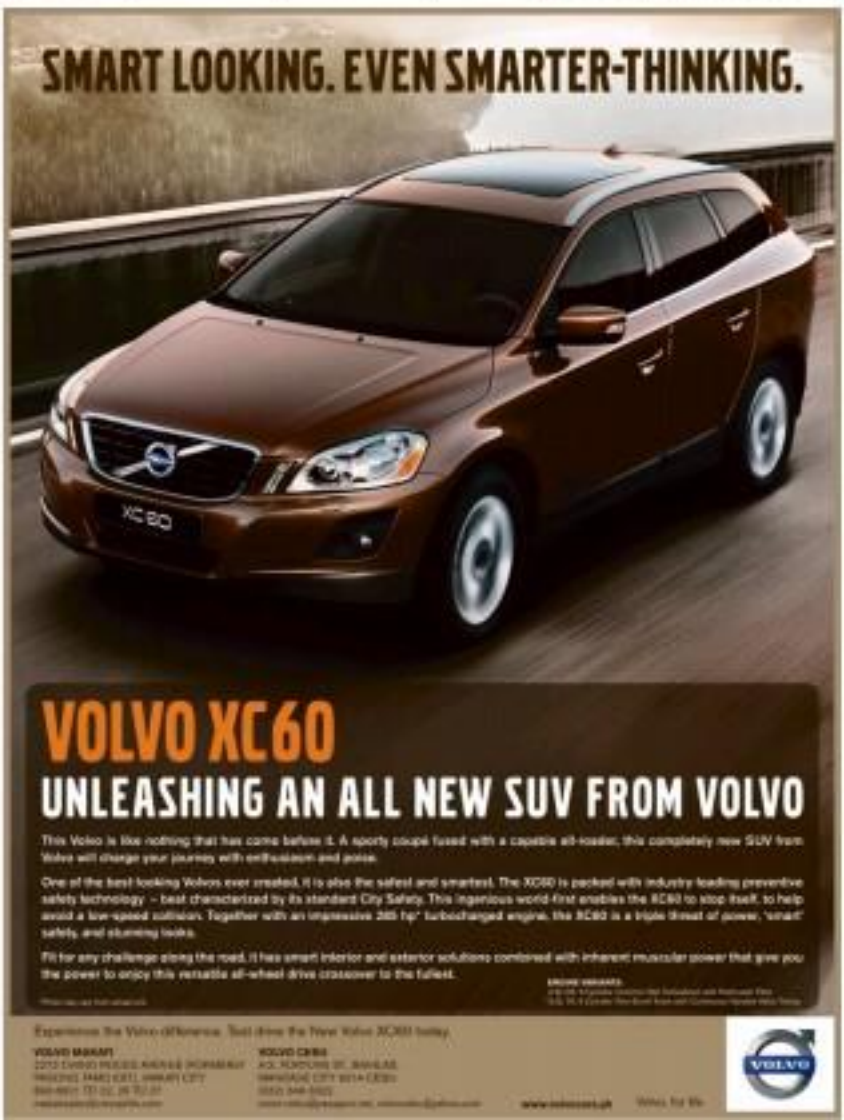
Last May 25, the PCCI, together with ABM and USAID, organized a focus group discussion on the strategies for improving the investment climate. We were able to come up with policy resolutions which, we believe, will help enhance the entry of foreign investments in the country.

Among them is the need to pass the bill on rationalization of fiscal incentives, review the foreign investment negative list, open the Build-3 to foreign international airlines and ensure ownership of all infrastructure projects.

Q: Some analysts are saying that the Philippines will perform better than other countries this year? Do you agree? Why?

A: We agree that the Philippines will perform better than other countries. Our economy is in better shape than most of our neighbors and we should hit the low end of its 3.7- to 4.7-percent growth target this year helped by continued remittance flows from our overseas Filipino workers.





BUSINESS Monday

Trend in competitiveness rankings

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Cesar B. Bautista

OVERALL, 2009 WILL BE ABOUT AGILITY: being a first trend in competitiveness ranking due to the global financial crisis hence vast of successes in Wall St. and other financial capitals.

The chart will indicate that the Philippines is fortunate to maintain its 44th out of 56th place in this difficult year due to its resilient economic fundamentals.

The National Competitiveness Council normally looks at seven ruling institutions to get a snapshot of Philippine competitiveness.

It's not an easy and straightforward process since it is like comparing apples and pears.

Varying criteria

For instance, SGLRC is focusing only on bureaucratic red tape during business transactions with government agencies—although we know that competitiveness of local industries/sectors is not only dependent on this.

World Economic Forum and IMD, on the other hand, combine qualitative ideas of a given economy (called the soft factors such as quality of life, environmental health education benefits) or what some call the assimilation of social weakness.

However, I suggest that we should pay closer attention to the solid causes of our competitiveness as identified earlier by Harvard Business School using the Porter's Diamond Model.

Recently, the results of the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2009 was announced to ADB.

The Philippines duel marginally from 40—42th position out of 57—which was not included considering the adverse environment those caused Taiwan, Greece, Ireland, Spain, among others, to drop by 5–10 slots!

Weaknesses

Most of RP's weaknesses are in the so-called social indices brought about by the low level of economy, jobs, markets, savings, infrastructure, health, education and environment.

IMD ranked the RP as 52nd of 57 in Stress Test on Competitiveness—highlighting our economy's robustness as mentioned earlier.

We are ahead of UK, Indonesia, Belgium, Mexico, France, Italy among others!

Blended Periods of 5 Y. Intra RP as very good in complainer with 12 key standards by second financial systems—26th out of 61, Banking—served up Philippine (BSP), Security & Exchange Commission (SEC), Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Insurance Commission (IC), etc., policy settings and their enforcement, control of public corporations, accounting/auditing systems and government efficiency were seen to be quite good.

However, RP is not as highly rated in Business Inflation Index—94th of 61—although ahead of our neighbors Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand.

The brain note only information that is public and authoritative—they use many hard, anecdotal tales and surveys of dubious values. The Financial Standards Foundation, composed of accomplished professional and objective evaluations from sound decision-making.

Global Integrity, with Richmond Heller as Managing Director, is a network of research and survey professionals who measure the practice of some institutions of using sustained information and collect shop taken to search for cooking.

Objective study

The deeper work of these institutions are being challenged by Global Integrity who have partners in more than 100 countries. They are based in Washington DC and are known to the IDs institutions. Heller becomes, "objective facts are at the mercy of public perception and politics."

Forbes Best Countries for Business 2009—the yearly ranking of Forbes is eagerly awaited by big businesses, especially in the ones who are looking for investment opportunities.

RP ranks 81st out of 127—ahead of Argentina, other South American countries, including Venezuela and Vietnam. They are attracted by our good credit balance and the potentially big market though they take note of the high unemployment rate.

Joblessness is the main factor to our economy—there is no matter to make small despite our huge population because of "low-backpowered" of the Filipinos.

Jobs are important even to China were the youth who demonstrated for democracy at Tiananmen Square 20 years ago now rank "jobs" higher on their list of priorities.

The weakness of social indices is a manifestation of the imbalance between our big populations and the low revenue collections, which makes it difficult for government to carry out its basic obligations diligently. Additionally, there are "inefficiencies" or "leaks" that need to be addressed to ensure that the previous revenues collected are spent well.

But at the end of the day, all these have been said be addressed to achieve an improvement in social indices: High population, low revenues and inefficiencies.

Corporate governance

The Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECC) is doing an annual evaluation of corporate governance practices with several countries, read Mexico. The hypothesis is that good corporate governance is a prerequisite for business to grow and take more responsibility of the country's credibility. After all, bribes and corruption are two sides of the same coin. The result: dividend takes place when the law of businesses becomes convenient with the law of government authorities—as per words of Abe.

Lastly, the OECC finds the Philippines as one of the best in corporate governance in Asia and will showcase this experience in its Asia Business Roundtable later this year. This acknowledgement has ramifications in the mutating mind of our corporations and their ability to influence public governance to a higher plane in the spirit of private-public revolution.

(The article was lifted from the author's presentation of the recent Research Development Council-National Competitiveness Council Conference in Mahatma. This reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is co-chair of the National Competitiveness Council and Trustee of Institute of Corporate Directors. He previously served as Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry. Feedback at mapi@philippines.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit www.map.org.ph.)

Higher ratings

It is evident that, depending on how soon and how strong the extent of the recovery of world economy, the aggregate Competitiveness Ratings for the Philippines may be even higher in 2010.

With the active role of the private sector in working with government agencies to improve processes in certain key agencies—the Philippines is on its way to competitiveness recovery.

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BEST VIEW OF TAAL

SUMMIT RIDGE

NCCA and CCP have recommended painter Federico Alcuaz, composer Ramon Santos, actor-director Manuel Conde and novelist Lazaro Francisco

Alcuaz, Conde lead National Artists

By Lito B. Zulueta

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is set to proclaim painter Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, composer Ramon Santos, the late filmmaker Manuel Conde and the late Tagalog novelist Lazaro Francisco as the country's new National Artists, and cultural officials who declined to be named...

The four names were elected in a meeting of the joint boards of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), and submitted to Malacañang for the President's proclamation.

While the final names were only known to the NCCA-CCP bd., she has the prerogative to add to it, as in 2006 when she included filmmaker-visual artist Abdulmari Imao, along with those elected by the NCCA and CCP—Bienvenido Lumbera, Jesusa Jocson ("Bencab"), Ildefonso Santos, Benedicto Cabrera (Bencab) and Ramon Orlina.

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY JOEL ARVIDA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PIL LUNOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEBONDS — BY ELIZABETH CHEVINSKI

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN WALSH

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

TULDOK — BY RINA COLL

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

ATOMIC AND WEEDY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

KIKO MACHINE — BY TROOF ABRERA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CHIALE

ARIES (March 21 to April 20): You survived celebrities from Showbiz and no complaints. (Boss, sorry!)

TAURUS (April 21 to May 20): Many word of research on digging into hidden secrets will be exciting today. Be sure your research is secret about someone or (let the rumours!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): A friend could become a lover today. Or perhaps vice-versa. Either way, you might find up with a romantic connection! Nothing is more important than being in the moment.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today you can tell the truth, or make up your favorite bedtime story, to get what you want. Be careful, though, not to get so caught up in your own creation that you start to believe it yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Phone-in/text competitions are not your thing, but you're sure of you are thrilled with share, stock advice, love, publishing, or even just the fun. Your best answer leads you will receive a prize.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Intimacy can be overwhelming, but you're up for it. Be open, honest, and vulnerable with your partner. Shared experiences and poetry could prepare you for love (more than you ever dreamed).

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your natural ability to charm others will come in handy today. You'll discover that you can easily get what you want without putting forth much effort. Enjoy it while it lasts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an interesting day at work. Unexpected events could present opportunity. At the least, you are good ways of making improvements to make tasks and time around you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a confusing day. You're not sure if you go out without a clear idea/best between your teeth / Sometimes you're right, sometimes not.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might have great ideas about how to make improvements at work, especially if you're creative or redecorating projects. Trust your instincts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're not afraid to express your true feelings and strong, and you want to share them with someone. Your confidence is admirable.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be more assertive, and you'll get what you want today. Someone literally a glowing goldfish — at classroom. Tonight, at the club, you want to impress your love feelings about something. Great! Look for ways to participate, to do this.

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ACROSS

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5. Alert
10. Preposition
14. Feminine nickname
15. Ring
16. Fish feeder
17. Ms. —
18. Alter
20. Oil
21. Cereal
22. Spacing
24. Food fish (Hawaii)
25. Ms. —
26. Sharp-witted
27. Snare or light
28. Political
29. Ms. —
31. Commanding
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Alcuaz, Conde lead National Artists

From page C1

Culture circles say the President might add comics author Carlo J. Caparas, theater veteran Zenaida Amadlo, fashion designer Auni Moreno, and/or architect Francisco Mañosa to the list.

Orden ng Lingod Pambansang Alagad ng Sining (Order of National Artists) is the highest national recognition given to Filipinos who have made significant contributions to the development of Philippine arts. Its categories are Music, Dance, Theater, Visual Arts, Literature, Film and Broadcast Arts, and Architecture and Allied Arts.

The order is jointly administered by the NCCA and CCP and conferred by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation by both committees.

A living National Artist receives a monthly stipend of P24,000 and annual medical and hospitalization support of P720,000. It also gets resource support from the NCCA for his/her artistic projects.

The heir of a posthumous National Artist will receive P75,000 upon the proclamation.

Because not all the four awards this year will be given posthumously, there is restrained debate on whether to put a cap to the number of years after the death of a nominee, or doing away altogether with posthumous awards.

Although there was a rule before that the award could be given posthumously only within 10 years after a nominee's death, that rule appears to have been abandoned when Severino Montano (1911-1980) was proclaimed National Artist in 2001 and Nikos (1912-1972) in 2006. The rule appears to have been again ignored this year—Lazaro Francisco died in 1980.

Three career-size arguments raised that the National Artist award should stick to the seven classical arts and no longer be given for Landscape Architecture (Antonio Molina received the award in 2006), Fashion Design (Valenti), and Broadcast Arts (with an exception yet).

Alcuaz

Alcuaz (born 1932) is perhaps the most important living Filipino modernist painter, with mastery of both representational (still-life, portrait, landscape) and nonrepresentational (shows (abstract and abstract expressionism), selecting skill in both traditional (oil and acrylic) and nontraditional (weaved) mediums.

Studying for several years in Barcelona, Spain, he won several prizes in Europe. In 2007, President Arroyo gave him the Presidential Merit Medal.

Alcuaz's works are included in the collection of some 20 museums and major cultural institutions in the world today, including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona; Museum of Contemporary Art in Madrid; Queen Sofia Provincial Museum of London; Museum of Modern Art of Warsaw; Museum of Modern Art of Krakow; Philips Cultural Museum of the Netherlands.

Alcuaz pieces have lately enjoyed record buildings in international auctions such as the September 2007 Sotheby's auction in Singapore and the 2007 Christie's auction in Hong Kong, in which his "Ifugao Mother" sold at HK$275,000 (P1,490,000), nine times above the minimum estimate, and his "Still Life with Lanzones" sold at HK$112,000 (P618,750), which is five times the minimum estimate.

Santos

Ramon Santos (born 1941) is composer and composer of new and experimental music.

He incorporates largely Philippine and Southeast Asian idioms in his compositions. His works derive from both Western and non-Western sources, combining orchestral instrumentation with both, such as Javanese gamelan and Philippine instruments. The snow-eclectic and innovative adaptation and original recasting characterize his total compositions.

His musicological and other scholarly studies have been published in leading journals here and abroad.

He has been at one time or another chair of the Asian Composers League and secretary general of the League of Filipino Composers. He was also head of the NCCA Subcommission on the Arts and NCCA board commissioner.

Conde

When the book "The Cinema of Manuel Conde," written by Filipino popular-culture scholar Nicanor Tiongson and published by the UST Publishing House, was launched last year during the fourth Cinemabuhay festival of independent films at the CCP Conde (1915-1998) was declared "the father of independent filmmaking."

The title seems to be the first that decodes before the phrase "indie cinema" was invented and became current, Conde was already producing, writing, directing and even starring in his own independent productions that challenged the hegemony of commercial movie studios such as LVN, Sampaguita, Premiere and Lebran.

Conde produced and directed Iorah costume spectacles of Western mythological and historical figures, such as "Reina Salvaleon de Lara" (1958) and "Sigfredo" (1961), which were blockbusters during their time.

He also portrayed the Filipino everyman, Ano Bernal, in a hit movie series that he himself produced and directed, which were powerful political satires and gave birth to a whole new genre of film that saved countless stars to make excellent commentary on pressing issues of the day.

Decades ahead of Lino Brocka, Kidlat Tahimik and Brillante Mendoza breaking into the international film festival circuit, Conde's "Tatsulok Diwa" became the first Philipino movie to be shown to the 1952 Venice Film Festival, the world's oldest international film festival and the most prestigious, along with those of Cannes and Berlin.

In almost all of his spectacular productions, Conde's art director and production designer was Carlos "Botong" Francisco, who himself was to be proclaimed National Artist in the 1970s.

Francisco

Along with National Artist Amado Hernandez, the prolific Lazaro Francisco (1898-1980) is perhaps the most important Tagalog Betlenia, a expression that has become more and more unassailable with the critical consensus setting from the republications of several of his novels since his death.

Between 1925 and 1940, Francisco wrote 12 novels which were serialized and eagerly read in Liwayway, the weekly Tagalog magazine. His novels tackled romance, class tensions, peasantry issues and agrarian unrest.

Says literary historian and National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera: "When the history of the Filipino novel is written, Lazaro Francisco is likely to occupy an eminent position in it. Already in Tagalog literature, he ranks among the finest novelists since the beginning of the 20th century."

"Dahil hanap ni sabi, malalim sa pilosopiya, may puso sa dukha, idealismo nangagpupog ng magandang daigdig, mamahalmasahin ngni ang mambabasa... upang pagkatapos ay mamulatan nitong ang maraig mamamayan ng Inang Francisco Dhiscloudi, isang dakilang champion of the poor, an idealist... the reader who dreams of a better world would discover in him all along best dreamer and inspirer by the light of Lazaro Francisco," wrote the late Tagalog contemporary Semestre Bagtilo B. Silao.

FELLA IN GREENBELT 3 was recently honored as one of the Most Promising Retailers during the 11th Ayala Malls Merchant Rewards Awards Night held at the Gallery of Greenbelt 5. Jojo Ong, General Manager of Super Corporation, received the award from Ramona Tuvaldan, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Ayala Malls Group, and Rodel Manansala, Assistant Vice President of the Ayala Malls Group. The recognition was given to the restaurant for its outstanding performance in its first year of operations.

Lao's timely lesson

By Leonisa Ma. Garcia
Contributor

LAOS' "MOON MAGIC" (1992, acrylic and burlap on board, 11.5 x 17¾ cm), fetched over P1.6 million in the recent Christie's art auction in Hong Kong on May 26.

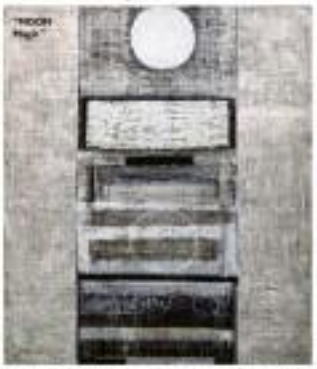
Upon hearing the news, a young enthusiastic admirer of Lao blurted out that now there would be even more instances of Lao. His remark provoked this reflection on outlive, bisected Lao.

At first sight, a painting by Lao Lianben manifests itself to the presence of all colors if it is black, or by the absence of all color if it is white. One wonders if it is not also marked by the absence of time and by a sense of emptiness.

If one is not careful, one may pose the wrong question. Why, this late in the visit, is this still a Filipino painting?

Upon deeper contemplation, the viewer who takes time out to consume but to really experience, in the strong sense of being taken out, to be touched by what is tangibly real, soon becomes aware that time is palpably felt in Lao's painting. Of course, that time is not the time wisely and meticulously measured by the minutes or hour of the clock.

Time here is the lived time that patiently interlaces inertia, the



time that breeds wonder like gentle mountain subsoil to a "the mighty creative" it is that time which hears and discloses the essential.

Feeling sway the traces of the monumental, time here assumes objects, giving them the thews of things handled with exquisite care and loving devotion. In this way, time transforms everyday objects into extraordinary artifacts.

Concrete examples may be a cart consumed by a cadre in Mt. Banahaw Lava, or even a baby's hair by Tiny Quintero, or a patrolman bangle-aspired in Ma. Fe Ruiz' one most absolutely true.

By a certain paradox, Lao becomes so, better still, witnesses this time that meant many things were so dearly by his creative gestures that are swift and spontaneous. But these spontaneous gestures that lovingly call forth one another can only be noticed at by painstaking whimsicals that align the mind, heart and hand of the artist.

Like the practice of Chinese calligraphy, this is brought about by hard work which soon becomes play. Lao's creative gestures, which infuses into the simplicity of strokes the subtlety and elegance of his spirit, is his very signature that gives a distinctive stamp to his works.

Lao is not only in his work. He work is himself. One remembers Heidegger's remark that every painting is a portrait of its maker. Lao Lianben, like all artists of integrity, can therefore be neither copied nor imitated.

In this way, Lao Lianben—the quintessential artist—becomes more creative, more free when he submits himself to a more beyond our lives, when he explores a world other than our world, when he risks and abandons himself to a source, a void whose fullness he already is steeped in and which he can only approximately express in silence and humility.

This may be Lao's finally lesson for us.

Comments are welcome at lgarcia@philstar.com.

"3 OF EIGHT"
by Hermenia de Rosa

VISUAL ARTS

De la Rosa in 2 galleries

Posing a bird the last de la Rosa's newest works are exhibited at Art Asia and Galerie V, both in SSS Megamall, and Gallery Big at UP Diliman Main (2 U.P. Ave. cor. U.P. Ikot-ikot, Diliman, Quezon City). The exhibit, "Running Feminine," features Hermenia and is titled and Benedict Abogas. It is on view until June 13.

Group show at Tin-aw

Curated by Lee Aliwan, "Aw" is a group show by Carlo Aquino, Kathleen Rendo, Arabelle Pelino, Ingo Aseoga, Odelle Pelkalen, Lee Paje, Jaime Ma. Aseo, Ivonne Siaya, Ryan Villamil, Le Nakan. Show opens June 5, 6 p.m., at Tin-aw Art Gallery, Upper G/F, Olympia Theatre, 7012 Makati Ave. and Sto. Tomas Street, Makati City. 1200. Call +63(2)8921672, e-mail info@tin-aw.com, visit www.tin-aw.com.

Valdes at Swing Kamalig

Chang Mi Valdes, New York-based pastel painting artist, director and visual artist, premieres her works "Memories, Reflections, Dreams for Letters" on June 6, 6 p.m., at Swing Kamalig (49, Gateway Rd., Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City). Exhibit runs June 6-14, after which the works will be exhibited in New York City on July 1-31 at Studio Chi Arts 109 Rue.

Serrano at Blue Wings

Blue Wings Gallery's first solo art show, "Pandalone," opened recently at Shangri-la's Art Square (3/F, Rizal's delicatessen, Shangri-la Mall, Edsa cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City) and runs until June 30. Christian Serrano's new collection of paintings are based on Philippine folklore. Call 8922910 or email blueingsgallery@yahoo.com.

Group exhibit at Jewellery

The Salon group art exhibition opens June 13 in Jewellery (2/F Greenhills Shopping Center). It features larger- and small-scale artworks of different creatures, characters and personalities. Participating artists are Anna Cadiz, Roche Briones, Nick Cabral, Jasper delos Reyes, Edred Salazar, Jan Evangelista, Paul Ubalde, Allan Cuilla, Chesney Mercado, Elmer Tanto, Flynn Flecha, Frey Rivera Jr., Egbal Rivera, Ryan Valenzuela and Jesse Vergel.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Gentle, surprising Transylvania

Once the center of Saxon Transylvania and a major transportation hub in central Romania, restored Sibiu was 2007 European Cultural Capital

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Keywords

"Gentle" and "unaggressive," I was to learn later, were to be my key words for understanding Transylvania.

Gentle was my feeling when transitioning under a dark, arched arcade tunneling under a tower while walking from Sibiu's grand Piata Mare to the smaller, more intimate Piata Mica (Small Square), where 16th-century houses are now refitted not as small museums, lovely bed-and-breakfasts, and open-air cafés that serve the greatest pizzas or cold Romanian food bounty with dollops of sour cream and pretty bread, just right for wedding dress–with local beer.

Music ended with our lingering so long so we could rave dessert and little tropical-juiced espressos.

The plaza would have been a perfect place for people watching except that there weren't many tourists or locals to watch.

Not sure there many people on the side streets leading away from the main plazas into the residential sections, which connect by intended arcades through old buildings to the historic center covered by soaring, tile roofs, simple houses that have survived intact from the 14th and 15th centuries line the streets, their large wooden gates opening into cool interior courtyards.

Outstanding is the Romanian conservation effort put into the historic center. Its totally pedestrianized core, defined by the two plazas and the major adjoining streets, is newly landscaped, paved and recobbled, with its power lines completely buried underground.

Monumental lighting bathes the buildings even night. The bathrooms restored architecture around the plazas is impeccable, a sight to see.

Conservation activity

Equally impressive is the constant conservation activity going on in the old city, where ultimate work on heritage buildings and houses, employing traditional conservation techniques in the old tradition while using handmade construction materials which are practically impossible to find in most industrialized countries today.

The respect for the heritage of historic Sibiu is admirable. Not only are existing buildings and homes restored, all exterior elements like signage, street lighting and paving are standardized.

The new architectural intrusions are visible at all. Cafés, shops, and even supermarkets are skillfully and unobtrusively inserted into street level spaces in heritage buildings.

Because of obvious control exercised by local heritage authorities, there is a strong sense of integrity in the historic ensemble of Sibiu. Everything matches up without any contrasting elements to jar the heritage setting.

Architectural unity, so rare and difficult to achieve, exists in the old town of Sibiu.

E-mail the author at pride.place@gmail.com.

FEELING AS IF NO OTHER FLIGHT HAD come to that afternoon, passengers filed silently out of the aircraft into the cloudless light of a summer evening, walking slowly into the emptiness of Sibiu airport in southern Romania.

Having boarded on the final leg of a long flight from Manila to Istanbul, Sibiu, I was taken aback by the unexpected stillness of the airport, without any talking that this was a forerunner of the solitude I was to experience in Transylvania, a vast geographical region that, I discovered, extended from Romania into neighboring Hungary.

Only three cabs queued at the stand outside the arrival area. I thankfully slid into the last one, sitting back for the drive into the city that passed wordlessly after our silence before coming to enormous rows of impersonal, brutalist Russian-era concrete housing blocks. It was still past one in the evening. Hardly anyone was out on the streets.

Suddenly, the massive medieval fortifications surrounding the historic center of Sibiu emergentially came into view.

Heritage city

Circumscribed by dark brick walls in a living heritage city of Gothic churches, Renaissance buildings, baroque palaces, and a maze of tile-roofed, multi-storied houses on both sides of narrow, cobbled streets, an architectural depiction of the city's eight centuries of urban history.

Archaeologically proven to exist since 1191, Sibiu's fortifications were built in the 13th century as protection from Turkish attacks. Conquered earlier, after settlement of the Roman Empire in 271 AD, waves of Slav, Avar, Germanic and Tartar migrants passed through the area. In the ninth century, Hungary took control of what has become modern Transylvania.

Adding to the many Romanian and Hungarian populaces, a succession of kings recruited Saxon colonists from Germany, lured them away from the feudal system, granted them freedom to farm the rich land and guard the vast Transylvanian territory.

At the end of the 16th century, Ottoman Turkish control for almost 90 years, after which it was annexed to the Habsburg Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Although the two World Wars did not cause much destruction, Sibiu's prosperity in Romania when the Austro-Hungarian Empire was dissolved after World War I. The recently ended Communist era brought an acute lack of investment from which the country is trying to recover.

Sibiu, a small city of roughly 150,000 inhabitants, has an admirably preserved historic urbanscape that radiates from three adjoining squares whose architecture reflects the city's multicultural origins. Once the center of Saxon Transylvania and a major transportation hub in central Romania, restored Sibiu was named European Cultural Capital for 2007.

Historic ensemble

From the narrow streets of the lower town lined with 16th-century houses, 16th-century passages wind between houses with steps rising from the lower to the upper town, Sibiu's historic center, clustered at the edge of a large, cobbled plaza, stands the City Hall, a splendid 1906 Jugendstil building that dominates the expansive Piata Mare (Big Square).

Next to it stands the imposing Baroque Brukenthal Palace (1778) that is now the city's major museum. Completing the historic ensemble are the Roman Catholic church (1733) and former Jesuit college (1719), both elegantly built in a gentle, nonaggressive Baroque style.

Here to it stands the imposing Baroque Brukenthal Palace (1778) that is now the city's major museum. Completing the historic ensemble are the Roman Catholic church (1733) and former Jesuit college (1719), both elegantly built in a gentle, nonaggressive Baroque style.

Cultural festival marks RP-Japan Friendship Day

THE JAPAN FOUNDATION (JF), WHICH aims to promote and encourage cultural exchange and cooperation between the Philippines and Japan, showcases the best of Japanese cinema, visual arts, music, dance and literature with its annual Pilipinas Nihon Friendship Month.

JF has invited Maki Morishita, a multi-awarded Japanese contemporary dance artist, to join Wili Body 6: Contemporary Dance Festival, on June 25–July 4 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). The program features a performance of an original collaboration piece by Morishita with Filipino dance artists, and the announcement of the winner of the 2011 JF CCP Heritage Award.

For the past two years, the JF has supported Philo's Incest (Dysfunctional Complexities) and endorsed its nominees in the Tokyo Contemporary Dance Competition and other Japanese contemporary dance programs. Last year's Wili winner, Rhoseen Pradesmendo Jr., was recently awarded the Grand Prize at the 2009 Yokohama Dance Collection R competition.

Japanese theater is represented by Yuji Sakuse's "Three Sisters, A Nah Play" from the Virgin Lolibox Anthology, a book featuring 10 of the best plays of the festival in the past four years. The anthology will be launched during the Wili Virgin Lolibox on CCP from June 30–July 5.

This year, Kiyokazu Yamamoto's "Broken Medea" will be among the 15 new plays to be shown for the first time at the Fifth Virgin Lolibox. Japanese director Yoshihisa Yoshida hides the Filipino cast.

The much-awaited Ryu Ito formally heralds the opening of Philippines-Japan Friendship Month on June 2, Thursday, until July 10, Friday, at the Rhoseen La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

It will then be brought to Davao (July 17–30) at the Gaisano South Cotabato, Cebu (July 2–6, August 2) at the Ayala Center, and Baguio (August 7–11) at the Centermall. It will have its last run at the UP Film Institute, Diliman, Quezon City on August 14–28.

JF also participates in the third installment of the Silent Film Festival, co-organized with the Goethe Institut, Instituto Cervantes, the French Embassy and other diplomatic offices, with the screening of the Japanese silent film, "Gisaburo, the Ray," which opens the festival on July 30, Thursday, at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

On July 31, Friday, 7 pm, Lawry Greenberg, a Japanese silent film expert and CEO of Digital Meme (the company responsible for restoring and conserving Japanese silent films), will show his varied collection of Japanese anime and silent films at the University of the Philippines Film Institute. The screenings will be followed by a lecture to introduce the uniqueness and culturally entertaining style of Japanese films to Filipino moviegoers.

Eleven of Japan's emergent generation of artists are featured in "Passage to the Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan," a contemporary arts exhibition opening at the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, DLS-CSB School of Design and Art, 950 Pablo Ocampo St., Malate, Manila, on July 7, 6 p.m.

Forty-two Japanese art pieces will be juxtaposed with works by Filipino contemporary artists. Mayumi Panlaqui Rivera curates. Exhibition will run until August 7, Friday.

The musical highlight of the month is the J-Classic Concert: A Night of Japanese Harmony featuring four of Japan's fast-rising young classical musicians: Satomi Aoyagi (piano), Takako Ozawa (violin), Yosuke Ishikawa (violin), and Risa Kataoka (flute), with Filipino classical and jazz guitarist Jimi "Butch" Bocao, on July 14 (Tuesday) and 15 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m., at the CCP Little Theater.

ARMED violinist, Japanese violinist, performs at the J-Classic Concert on July 14 to 15 at the CCP Little Theater.

Atlantis Productions brings back 'Spelling Bee,' introduces new talents in 'Spring Awakening'

ATLANTIS PRODUCTIONS' 5th production of the Tony Award-winning musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" will return for a limited repeat run on July 3, 12 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, NDC Pitou, Makati, and then will travel to Singapore for an August run.

"Spelling Bee" has a Tony Award-winning book by Rachel Sheinkin, and music and lyrics by Tony Award winner William Finn.

Its new "Spelling Bee" shows are even older, as it features "running roles" each night for two school-age audience members and two respective celebrity guest spellers. Unlikely guest spellers during the recent sold-out run included Lea Salonga, Jon Avargan, Pinky Marquez, Cheska Ortega, Leo Rialp, Jon Santos, Cherie Gil, Sen. Chiz Escudero, Boy Trinidad, Gabe Mercado, Bibo, Miguel Elizalde, Olivia Mejia, Chaledon Guerrero, Isabella Gonzalez, Franco and Ayen Laurel, Geneva Cruz, Wency Cornejo, Menchu Lauchengco Yulo, Rico Laurel, Kyrie Velasco, Teresa Herrera, Alec Segovia and Faye Marasigan.

Featured in "Spelling Bee" are Cathy Azmin-Dy, Pierre Bautista, Johann de la Fuente, Carlo Gatpoves-Lafuente, Lorene Gladstone, Noel Reyes, Felix Pitpitan, Joel Trinidad and Mirlo Valdevueza-Marchan.

"Spelling Bee" is directed by Bobby Garcia. Choreography is by Chad Antipuesto, with design by Tony Balaquit, lighting design by Jobelle Flores, costume design by Twinkle Zamora, vocal coaching by Madrina Aquino and musical direction by Jojo Mabanglo.

KELLY Frances Lee

MIGUEL Mendoza

Tickets are available at Ticketworld, Fully Booked, Powerbooks, Music One, Music Museum, Rockwell Tent, Glorietta 4 and Trinoma. Call 892-7470 or 840-1187.

Bright newcomers

Miguel Mendoza of "Philippine Idol" and "Pinoy Dream Academy" seems his professional stage debut in Atlantis Productions' "Spring Awakening," set to run September 25-October 27 at the NDC Pitou, Makati City.

In Frances Ghelli's production, Mendoza took musical, which won seven Tony Awards including "Best Musical," Broadway in New York City. Kelly has been studying and watching musical theater for as long as she can remember. She has a passion of roles in her portfolio, among them Little Red Riding Hood in "Into the Woods," Catherine in "Pippin" and Sally Brown in "Hair" at Good Shepherd Convent.

She was one of over 200 who came to audition for the musical's Manila staging. Her callback video was sent to the New York producers for final casting approval.

"The rest of the cast will be announced soon. Due to the show's explicit content, parental discretion is advised.

"Spring Awakening" will be directed by Chari Arespacochaga, and is made possible through a special licensing agreement with its Broadway producers Ira Pittelman, Tom Hulce, Jeffrey Richards and Jerry Frankel.

It runs September 25-October 17 at Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati. Only a few shows remain available by clustering and bookmarking.

Call 892-7470 or 840-1187.

TRIO Concordia: pianist Ivo Kahanek, violinist Jan Pichler and cellist Tomas Jamnik

Prague group relives romance of chamber music

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

"THE SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT OF THE Prague-based Trio Concordia at the Manila Peninsula would help coax interest in and appreciation of chamber music. Therefore music was popular among the aristocrats who hired their musicians for private home engagements. In this five-star hotel frequented by stars from high finance, I imagined myself as one of them. Dinner started with potato soup with wild mushrooms, guaranteed by basket-ups of Saint-pierre Blanc-Chardonnay.

Main course consisted of Czechoslovakian roasted beef, sour cream dill and bread dumplings, during which the wine changed to Cabernet Sauvignon-Connoisseur.

Animated talk

My relished animated talk about the musical highs-country homes and the poor arts patron who might be unjustly dragged into it-until connoisseur society Risk Faschee—an gathered diplomat) in a day's notice to the victory party hosted by Claudi Bugaoo for Binary Pesquino —talked about how expensive jewelry for sale ended up in pawnshops whereupon they were soon stuck by interest in current sales effect.

Risk Faschee himself worried about somebody's cocktail furs showing up in a summer party. The subject was enough for me to unpack images of Mitzi Cuffo singing "Jewel Song" from "Faust," with all the contempt for jewelry showing on her face.

Winding up with a dessert called tipsy pudding-cake at the group talked about facts that did occasion to hate fiddles, one resumed for the substantial music menu which consisted of Brahms' Trio in B Major, Op. 8 (Jerry version); Josef Suk's Elegy, Op. 23, and Smetana's Trio in G Minor, Op. 15.

The Concordians, which was formed in 2999, is composed of pianist Ivo Kahanek, violinist Jan Pichler and cellist Tomas Jamnik. At the Captain's Bar where the dinner repaired for the intimate session, the atmospheres were furnished by one's mind's and natural sound-work store.

Fours adagio was base to the schools, allegro molto movements (candy) interposed by premature applause in between movements, it was easy to see that this was a first-rate chamber group. There was palpable color and sonata highlighted with beautiful balance and restraint. The slow adagio was even more breathtaking, as you finally savored the contrast between the first two movements. The pianist blended perfectly, the violinist dreamed while glissandi-like is all about, but it was the cellist, Jamnik, who took our breath away with the quiet, of understatement manner in which he led and balanced the entire ensemble.

At the end of the final allegro, you could see their individual virtuosity, which didn't call attention to themselves. They used their individual gifts to realize the higher goals of chamber music as communal sharing. That night, the performance of the Trio Concordia in Manila was a highly charged, highly fluid and emotional musical experience.

Two free chamber sanctuaries in the audience—pianist Mary Anne Espino and violinist Gian Medina—upheld the concert was "extraordinary music-making." I wholly agree, and for that, we have the following to thank: Manchuria-fostered, Embassy of the Czech Republic and Czech Airlines.

Cayuco Visayas piano tour

Another chamber music treat is in store for music lovers in the south, when pianist Cristian Cayuco and daughter Pianist Cat'lin Alice Cayuco embark on a Visayas piano tour on June 24 (Bacolod City), June 26 (Cebu City) and June 28 (Dumaguete City).

In celebration of Haydn's bicentennial death anniversary and Mendelssohn's bicentennial birth anniversary, Cristian's program will include Haydn's Capriccio in E Major and 14 lyrical pieces from Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words." On the second half of the program, his Pianist daughter will perform Chaminade's Flute Concertino and Rolling's Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio, with Jul Magsalin (bass) and Hector San José (drums), both members of famed Saboga's Kilometrako.

Call 811-1000 or 0916-44-12202.

Cultural festival marks RP-Japan Friendship Day

From page D1

CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater), CCP Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

On July 16, Thursday morning, the Japanese musical quartet will hold a music workshop and share current trends in teaching and learning classical music at the ISY Conservatory of Music. In the afternoon, Japanese music producer Hiroyuki Takeshima will give a talk on his experience in the Japanese music industry, including his encounter bringing the Beatles to Japan.

J-Pop and anime fans are also invited to watch the Grand Finals of the J-Pop Anime Singing Competition on July 25, Saturday, 2 p.m., at the Ambulay Center of Market! Market!, Taguig City, as 10 groups aim to prevail as the first ever J-Pop Anime Singing Competition winners. The competing groups will perform one Japanese song rendered in anime or J-Pop. Embassy of Japan certificates and Japanese language scholarships from the Nihongo Center Foundation await the top three winners.

All events, except for the silent film festival screenings, are free of charge to the public. Reservations are encouraged as event venues may have limited audience capacity.

Call 811-6439 ext. 30, e-mail emailjpf@no.org.ph or visit www.jfnet.org.ph.

'The Male Voice': Strong actors, weak stories

By Katrina Stuart Santiago
Contributor

THE SETUP LOOKED SIMPLE—FOUR chairs, four small tables, and two clothes-rack stumps. However, the moment the actors began the first monologue, "I Ask Him," it became clear that this was going to be more complex than the stage and its bare actors.

Because there is more to making a powerful and revolutionary play than just being inspired by "The Vagina Monologues," and reconfiguring it to highlight man's "humanity."

There must be more to Male Voice Company's "The Male Voice" than just telling the individual stories of men to probe their existence as affected members of family and society. There must be more to it than that cliche of an ending: Men will choose to be part of the solution, instead of the problem.

There were fantastic monologues, of course, such as "The Lord's Servants Speak up," about three priests across generations talking about God as our main but also women, and of Catholicism as a contributing factor to the continued oppression of women; and "LALABEL" on the dynamics of equality in the everyday act of boasting the penis.

The actors representing four generations of men were also fantastic—Tony Ahard and Michael Williams, as expected; Joel Trinidad, who was sadly underutilized; and Joaquin Valdes, despite his unease and difficulty with Filipino.

Reclassified

Obviously, the problem here was with the material. Many of the monologues were bogged down by the need to tell a story. A repetitive one at that.

And on "The Male Voice" gave us a peek into lives that lead to the tatik are abusive father, grandfather and husband, painful words, brotherhood, HIV/AIDS, homosexuality. Eat men, the military, the martial dancer, the OFW, the ex-convict, the cheating husband.

They were shown as victims, too, bound in the premise of violence, as both purpose and victim, and the apology required for whatever hurt or pain they have caused.

But at a certain point, the stories became difficult to tell apart, and the narrative mode became redundant. After all, how many stories would you hear about the dysfunctional abusive family relationship required these many versions of regret and change could you work with from there?

For Ender's "The Vagina Monologues" worked because we got a sense of how the individual monologues spoke to the rest of the world of women, even when they were racially and religiously distinct from each other.

Given this model, it's unacceptable that "The Male Voice" failed to deal with the concepts that surrounded, and the stereotypes propagated about, the experiences of Filipino men.

The shorter monologues, grouped into montages, worked quite well at hinting the bigger concepts of brotherhood ("Old Ko si Boyet"), of societal pressure ("Para Isang"); of media images ("Katsalad at Beep"); of machismo ("My father, his father and me," "The Bird"); of many numbers ("Unsaya, Anjanet"); So why couldn't this be done with the longer monologues?

Hodgepodge

To Ender, we are at a time when it's impossible for the Filipino male to be compartmentalized, in this day and age when the capitalist enterprise oppresses us all, gender notwithstanding.

Politically for the Filipino male, more than at any other time, the oppression is propagated by everything from the images media creates of the "ideal man," to the stronge dynamics spawned by the tension between gender equality and traditional chivalrous expectations.

"The Male Voice" could've dealt with all of this head-on. Instead, it gave us a hodgepodge of stories that seemed to be hooked only by two things: a man as narrator, and some form of violence that always lurked in his life.

Surprisingly enough, there were no monologues on love and sex, on dealing with women outside of marriage, on struggling with a non-stereotypical trait or hobby on being expected to be the provider-protector and housebanner; on being clueless at a time when it could be seen as patronizing; or taking on the challenge of equality and paying dearly for it.

Probably the only thing more surprising than the lack of sex and blur in this play was its daring to deal with homosexuality...as if this were new the male's as well.

What, no gay monologues? That's a disservice to the whole enterprise of homosexual empowerment, as it is an injustice to the male voice.

Throughout the monologues, there seemed to be an effort at being politically correct, at not speaking of women...or gays, for that matter...as objects of one's affection and lust.

There was an effort at not being offensive or aggressive, particularly on issues that mattered. Instead, there was an effort to focus only on the male experience with himself.

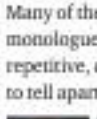
Creative way

There must be a creative way of having men speak about themselves in relation to the world, without having to be apologetic or spending too much time giving us a context: "I did this, because this is what happened to me, I am sorry."

What about: "I do this, because this is me, deal with it, or don't. I am man, hear me roar!" Or: "I am this, because of you. Now where do we go from here?"

In the end, there was nothing new or extraordinary about "The Male Voice," nothing I hadn't read in books or watched on TV, nothing I could take with me as I stepped out of the door.

Realizing how lost a lot of men are, talking, which we have in our everyday lives, anyway.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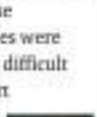

JOAQUIN Valdes

THE SETUP proved to be more complex than the sparse stage and its four actors.

MICHAEL Williams

JOEL Trinidad

'Clytemnestra-Manila '58' was shot, directed and edited by Paul Morales, with Myra Beltran as the dancer

Pinoys win online Martha Graham dance-video contest

By Walter Ang
Contributor

PAUL MORALES AND MYRA BELTRAN recently won third place in the "Clytemnestra Rebirth Challenge" organized by the Martha Graham Dance Company.

The worldwide contest involved dancers, leading any of four works featured in Graham's 1958 masterwork, "Clytemnestra," and "in any way imaginable, create a radically reconstituted, reinvented short video."

The video clips available online were from the company's 2008 production of the 30th anniversary of Graham's work based on the Tragedy Way.

The pair submitted a black-and-white entry titled "Clytemnestra-Manila '58," described as "a cinematic adaptation that delves into the motives and premeditation of a woman on the verge of committing a heinous crime...in a Manila closer to Graham's time."

The video (which can be viewed at www.clytemnestraproject.com) was shot, directed and edited by Morales with Beltran as the dancer.

Morales is artistic director of Ateliers and Beltran is artistic director of Dance Forum. Beltran found out about the contest through her sister Ida, former ballet Philippines executive director, now based in Canada.

"I thought it would be interesting for me to go into Graham's choreographic mind, to get in her in her skin somewhat. I thought that would be very useful to me as a choreographer at this point where I already view things differently," she says.

Process

Beltran had purchased a video projector last year and had since been exploring dance on video or dancing with video.

"My questions to myself as an artist, with the virtual world (being) so much the reality of people these days, is: Where is the body in technology? In the performing arts, the live performing body still have a validity when everyone is virtual? I have been trying to answer myself and my art into all of this and trying to understand it," she says.

Morales had just finished directing the film "Concerto."

"We were now experimenting with video and dance, it seemed logical to unite the two. But we did it more as a lark, just for fun, and to try out my new camera, a Nikon D90 DSLR," he says.

"Both out of resources and time management were characteristically Pinoy, done with whatever was on hand, with a sense of humor. The video was shot one day before the deadline, in Beltran's home, with no lighting equipment, and with her driver playing the role of Clytemnestra's husband.

"He was slightly freaked out in the murder scene because I was using a real knife," Beltran laughs. "The shoot was spontaneous, light and creative. It had no incredible and incalculable quiet behind it."

Craft

The pair now, however, that the process was done with craft. Both worked under certain parameters.

"We wanted to create a Philippine presence in the competition. We were not making any pronouncements about where we are coming from and what resources we had. We both have a reverence for Ms Martha and her work and her influences," says Beltran. "Paul is a filmmaker and that is his great advantage, that he is both a dancer and film artist. He could do a contemporary reading of Graham's work that was informed by the camera's eye."

Morales adds: "He came up with the idea to re-shoot our entry in a 'cinematic' way. It was a bit necessary to the idea of the re-staging some areas of the other routes, used the original footage of the dancer, but we went with the idea anyway. In that sense, it was really a pleasant surprise to win."

Both dancer-choreographers are advocates of contemporary dance and acknowledge Graham's strong influences on this form.

"Graham created a modern dance technique which had wide dissemination and was taught to many places," says Beltran.

Both were former dancers of Ballet Philippines and exposed to Graham's technique through their teachers. Beltran trained under Norman Walker while Morales under Agnes Locsin.

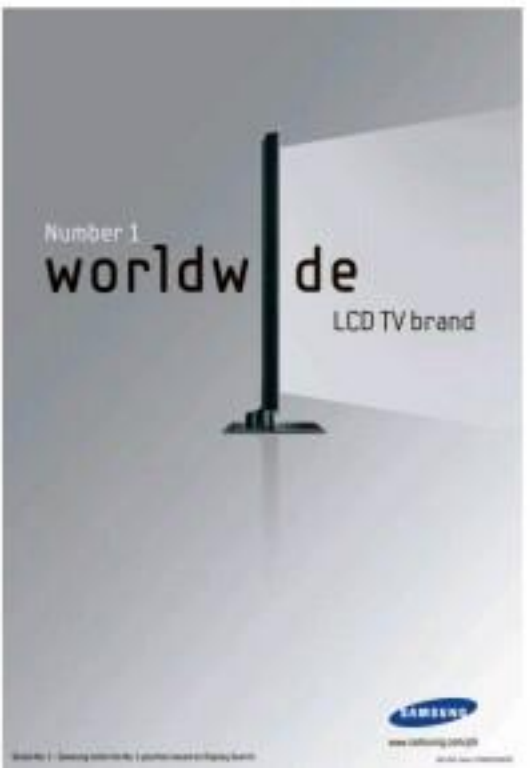
"Graham was also a strong influence on Ballet Philippines founder Alice Reyes' work," says Morales.

Dance festival

Morales is the festival director of this year's Wolf Body Festival (the only annual contemporary dance festival in the country), and his recent victory serves to further push his efforts in the use of video in dance.

"My advance doesn't mean films in the past festivals, but this year, we have a dance-film competition. We believe that the future of dance includes film in a big way, either as an elements in live work, as an end product you can easily mail/modify dance as a video medium (through the Internet, for example), or as a collaboration frontier where the arts can meet and mix in new ways," he says.

For details on the Wolf Body Festival's dance-film competition, visit www.geocities.com/wolfbody.



SCENES from Labfest past. Fifteen plays culled from the past four editions of the festival have been collected into an anthology

Virgin Labfest marks fifth year, launches book of plays

By Walter Ang
Cool Beans

The annual festival of 'untried, untested, unpublished and unstaged' plays opens June 24

FIVE YEARS AGO, PLAYwright Rody Vera conceived the Virgin Labfest as "a venue for playwrights, directors and actors to bring to life 'untried, untested, unpublished and unstaged' one-act plays."

This year, it marks its fifth year with the launch of an anthology of 15 plays culled from the past four editions of the festival.

Vera selected and edited the plays for the book in consultation with former Tanghalang Pilipino artistic director Dennis Marasigan.

Playwrights featured include established names such as F. Rosal Jose, Lian Maquiso, Nicolas Pichay and Floy Quintos, together with a younger generation of playwrights such as Jennie Tiodoro, Glenn Mas Sevilla, Lipeto Bituin and Allan Lopez.

To be launched on June 24, the book is an apt and logical output for the festival, as the Labfest was created as a way to present the works of the Writers Bloc, an independent organization of established and aspiring playwrights headed by Vera. Plays are done in conjunction with Tanghalang Pilipino, the resident theater company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

One-act trilogies

As has become tradition, there will be five sets of one-act collagen where each set deals with a central topic or unifying theme.

This year's sets have titles that range from intriguing, such as "It's Complicated (The Dubbed Babel Trilogy)," "Life Is a Trip (Three Plays in Transit of Escape)," "The Family That _____ Together (Walong Dalang Walang Diyos)," to wickedly humorous, such as "School of Life (Mga Dalang Walang Utang-utang)" and "Blood Spares (Tabelyang Dongyan)."

One additional set enlarges three plays from last year's fest. Floy Quintos' "Ang Kahanginan ng Mga Bayan," Rogelio Braga's "Ang Bayot, ang Siwenas at ang Sidekick sa Isang Sidekickapet na Pagkilatsay sa Kinis ng Lenser del Norte," and Jun Pagaduan's "Usad Sa ang Nasay Kong si Inocta."

Aside from the performances, there will be staged readings of works in progress, including a musical by Jose Tirazona that will eventually be produced by Repertory Philippines, and decried improvisational comedy sessions by Billy Boquiz's Improv Theater Guild.

Also included is a staged reading of Kristian Sevilla's "American Utopia" (Pinanguan) now being staged in New York City by Filipino-American theater group Ma-Yi Theater. It's receiving rave reviews," says Chris Millado, CCP Performing Arts department head.

There will also be Talkback sessions with audiences on the festival's first week, and a creative playwriting workshop for high-school students to be moderated by Sevilla.

Brave new works

This year, the Virgin Labfest will be held concurrently with the fourth Pilipinas Live Performance Festival, an independent contemporary dance festival, and will be presented by Pistahan!, a spoken word festival that opens June 18.

These three events in June are part of CCP's Brave New Works Festivals, a series that concludes in July with three more events: the 13 Artists Awards and Exhibition, opening on July 9; Music Undercontruction, featuring new compositions for symphonies, opening July 15; and the fifth Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, opening on July 17.

"The festivals are part of CCP's 40th anniversary and exemplify the CCP mandate of encouraging and showcasing original Filipino works. Through these festivals, CCP ushers in a deluge of provocative new works by poets, playwrights, choreographers, composers, visual artists and independent filmmakers," says Millado.

"From June to July, audiences can experience groundbreaking productions in poetry, performances, modern classic contemporary dance, new symphonic music, painting, sculpture, installation, multimedia and digital feature films."

With the Virgin Labfest, Wifi Body Festival and Cinemalaya as three of the most well-known events, having gained ground in the past few years, it is the aim of Millado to consolidate the different audiences for all of the events included in these "Brave New Works."

Audiences will have a chance to explore new art forms they may not be familiar with. Artists, on the other hand, are encouraged to work with each other across events.

"It's working. Choreographer Denisa Reyes has staged a play in a previous Virgin Labfest and has turned it into a movie for Cinemalaya. Paul Morales, himself steeped in theater, dance and film, is creating Wifi Body and has done some environment choreography for the musical being developed for Music Undercontruction," says Millado.

Spoken word

Curated by Hermogenes Beltran Jr., WordLikeFire has three main performance dates every other Wednesday starting June 10, with Lourd de Veyra's Radioactive Sago Project.

Oral tradition and Indigenous will be featured on the first night, together with their resident narrative rap poetry.

RODY Vera, playwright and organizer of the Virgin Labfest, which showcases works by the Writers Bloc, an independent group of established and aspiring playwrights

June 24 features protest poetry, while July 1 presents a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender night of poetry featuring the works of J. Neil Garcia and Ada Tinnio, among others.

All performances will be held at Bulwagan Bru, where people can relax after the work day, have a meal with beer, and enjoy the sounds and meanings of the spoken word," says Millado.

A special performance of poetry for children will be held on July 4 at the CCP Main Theater Lobby.

For tickets and inquiries, call 832-1125 or visit www.culturalcenter.gov.ph.

Wifi Body Festival showcases modern dance

THE EVOLVING BODY IS THE THEME of this year's Wifi Body, an independent contemporary dance festival now on its fourth year, held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Festival director Paul Morales says: "The festival asks dancers and choreographers where we can go and where do we go; how do we use our bodies differently, and how are we open to push our bodies further."

Morales succeeds Myra Beltran, who was festival director for Wifi Body's first three years. Both are proponents of the local contemporary dance scene, with Beltran as the artistic director of Dance Forum and Morales as artistic director of Ballarue.

"The artistic premise of Wifi Body was to question where the human body lies in an increasingly technological and wireless world, how contemporary dance groups and dancers are linked together throughout the country, and to allow the public to 'access' contemporary dance," says Beltran.

Visible art form

Presented by Contemporary Dance Network Philippines (a member of World Dance Alliance), the CCP and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Wifi Body also aims to present contemporary dance as a viable art form as well as nurture up-and-coming talents.

This is the first time the festival will span two weeks, and Morales has given eight dancers for each week. The first week is themed "East Meet" and highlights the works of winners and competitors of past New Choreographers' Competitions.

Interaction

The second week, "Conjunction," highlights the interaction all dancers do with each other.

"This includes regional and international dancers, both professional and student groups," says Morales.

One example of intervention is a dance duo will feature Japanese guest artist Maki Morishita with Ballet Philippines dancer.

Morales notes that Wifi Body has been helping push Philippine talent into global interaction by sending past winners of its competitions to regional festivals.

"Dancers Miranda and Rizzanne Pradanos, do not have paid salaries after he won his numerous awards, and audiences will get a chance to see their works in the year's fest," he says. "The organizer is steadily building. We are moving bass abroad!"

Contemporary groups

The festival's lineup is anchored on "main" evening performances in the Ibarle performance segment, featuring different contemporary groups such as Ballarue's Dance Theatre Ambiance; UP Dance Company; Ramsing Contemporary Dance and Theatre Company (Cavitenal City); Dance Hall (Bacolod); and Lucsin Dance Workshop (Davao City).

Aside from the evening shows, a host of other performances and activities will be presented throughout the day and all over the CCP. There will be a photo exhibit, contemporary dance workshops, and rare glimpse in where artists, educators, dance enthusiasts and the public are invited to discuss contemporary dance and the evolving body.

There will even be street parties at the driveway outside the CCP Interiors, featuring groups like Kompa Flores.

Film contest

New blood is empowered to some out to this year's New Choreographers' Competition, exclusively for the solo and duet form. School-based dance groups will have a chance to shine in the Emerging Talent showcase.

While past festivals have always included screenings of dance films, a competition for filmmakers who direct dance has been introduced this year.

"New Film, Best Student Film, and an Audience Prize will be awarded," says Morales.

Both Morales and Beltran feel there is still a lot to do in pushing contemporary dance further, but the Wifi Body festival is becoming more and more integral in the process.

"In the suburbs, more people are enrolling in Modern Dance and this is one of the results of the accumulated efforts of everyone involved," Morales says. Walter Ang, Contributor

For details, visit www.operation.com/wifibody. Tickets available at CCP Box Office (832-1125to) and all Ticketworld outlets (891-9999). Festival passes and day passes are available.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto G. Velarde

H'wood movie about Susan Boyle!

LONDON—SUSAN BOYLE HAS LEFT "PIE London clinic where she was treated for ex hausion, but'mother said on Friday Boyle, 48, who was starved of oxygen at birth, heading to minor brain damage, recently suffered a magor relaps on "Britain's Got Talent." There's talk of a Hollywood movie about her. —Reuters

CHEER FACTOR

French film festival grapples with local censors

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL IN MANILA, now in its 14th year, has for a snag with the local censors.

One of the films, Bertrand Tavernier's "L'Holy de Jadin (Right Now)," was rated X by the Movie and Television Review and Classifi-cation Board (MTRCB).

Martin Macaldiral, audio-visual attaché of the French Embassy, said "L'Iloa de Jadin"—an entry in the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival in 2008—was thus rated because of frontal nudity and sex scenes.

Another French film that almost got banned was Michael Haneke's "Le Ruban." The co-mes passed it, Macaldiral said, on condition that it will be screened only once (June 14).

Macaldiral noted that the concept of this year's fest, currently running at the Shangri-La Plaza mall, is "to bring Cannes to Manila."

Also featured in the 30-day event are 10 Iglesi films screened in the year's Cannes, to be shown on June 12, 30 Independence Day.

Centerpiece of this tribute to the local pre-mieres of Regis Martin's "Independencia," an en-try in this year's De Cannes Regard.

Macaldiral said organizers had planned to premiere "Himalay," which won the Best Direc-tor prize for Brillante Mendoza in Cannes last month, but they were sure it would encounter problems with the MTRCB.

Himalaya earlier told the Inquirer that he would allow a local screening only if the sen-sors didn't touch his movie.

In lieu of "Kinatay," the fest picked Mel-dimark "Bambo," Philippine entry in the Main Competition of last year's Cannes.

Worth the wait

By Marinell C. Cruz

BEFORE HER recent wed-ding, Judy Ann Santos thought she would stay a virgin.

"Yeah, I was a bridesmaid in six weddings in one

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2 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
4 DRAG ME TO HELL
5 ANGELS & DEMONS
6 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
7 FROM WITHIN | HOUSE
8 BFF: BEST FRIEND FOREVER
9 IndieSine: BABY ANGELO
10 DALAW

ERMITA

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
2 FROM WITHIN
3 DRAG ME TO HELL
4 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
5 ANGELS & DEMONS
6 DALAW
7 BFF: BEST FRIEND FOREVER

METRO EAST

1 FROM WITHIN
2 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
3 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
4 DRAG ME TO HELL
5 DALAW
6 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
7 ANGELS & DEMONS
8 BFF: BEST FRIEND FOREVER

NOVALICHES

1 DALAW
2 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
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3 ANGELS & DEMONS
4 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

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1 DED NA SI LOLO
2 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
3 DRAG ME TO HELL
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2

IMUS

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2 DRAG ME TO HELL
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
4 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

STARMILLS

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
2 GHOSTS of GIRLFRIEND'S PAST
3 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER
4 ANGELS & DEMONS
5 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
6 DRAG ME TO HELL

ANGELES

1 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
2 DRAG ME TO HELL
3 GHOSTS of GIRLFRIEND'S PAST
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2

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BACOLOD

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2 DRAG ME TO HELL
3 17 AGAIN
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
5 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER
6 ANGELS & DEMONS

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FROM SAM RAIMI
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DRAG ME TO HELL

NOW SCARING

Friendly co

Mike Enriquez and Danee Sa

By Phaline B. Cruz

WE WERE COMpetitors but, at the same time, associates and friends," says award-winning broadcaster Mike Enriquez of his best buddy Danee "Danee" Sarmenta, better known as radio disc jockey and concert promoter Sarah O'Neal.

The two-some rival hits in the 1970s—Mike was with dzRH, Danny with dzRM, both AM stations. "The relationship transcended professional matters," recalls Mike, now GMA 7 senior vice president for radio, and executive of the network's primetime TV news. "We used to collaborate in making station IDs. We've always had the same interests and passions, be it as music or the arts."

Mike recalls that it was Danny who uploaded tapes from his

NOW SHOWING

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THE DEAD CAN'T REST IN PEACE

THOMAS DEKKER
TERMINATOR: THE SARAH CONNOR CHRONICLES

FROM WITHIN

A REAL GHOST STORY

Maryo J is Bar

Dolly Wood

Dolly Ann Carvajal

COULD IT BE TRUE THAT Phoebe Shelmoore and Abby Cinn Mon-aghan-bar don't-re keeping it hush-hush for now?

Both their "status" in face-book read: Single. Hope it's just a cool-off period. Love is a terrible thing to waste.

New manager for Baron

Baron Geisler is no longer with Star Magic. He's now managed by Direk Maryo J. delos Reyes. Old Baron leave unceremoniously or with the blessings of his former handler? Nobody's talking anyway. Baron keeps making people wonder what he's up to next. Call it the Gender enigma.

Tears of joy

When Judy Ann Santos walked down the aisle, she forgot to bring a hankie. So when tears started falling at the appointed the altar, her best friend Direk Wenn Garcia whispered, "Wala bang dalang panyo?" and slipped his own hankie under her veil. Maybe Judy didn't want to wipe away her tears of joy.

Reunited once

Julius Magdangal and Marvin Agustin are reunited in the romantic comedy series "Milk Sa Tsa" (carnivores tonight after "Fancy Bata" on GMA 7), also starring Dennis Trillo and Jennylyn Garcia. "Milk Sa Tsa" follows the lives of four people whose paths converge in circumstances of a millionaire's role of emotional highs and lows.

Will Marvin's reconciliation go haywire when he weeks with his two exes—Julius and Prudence Luna? "I'm friends with all my exes, Girl," he says. "They all helped me know always I didn't know about myself. I go dude when people leave me and Julius. Let's give her the space she needs to fully recover from her previ-

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PROMENADE

PUBLIC AIR MONITORING SYS

mpetitors

monte go back a long way

The songs were the 1950s to ey bands today," "So long Kim This is also true hes DJ friends. and Rudolph busy working, DJ Sonny enjoy ers to try ments. ty. "He ly to sing ry's, said. ge," Then ys Mike.

Biz Buddies

n't Mike's only partner. Mike ts with his wife 24-hour co-an- singer said. Pia of every week. ch these days," er looking for a ontest."

"When we go smallcommercial

bonding. We talk about work, but not in the way that we talk about it in the newsroom or in the studio. It's good to work with people you also consider friends. Our contract doesn't require us to be friends. I see the friendship as a huge bonus."

Mel says she initially feared Mike fare boss on "Kuwentong Hapon" in the '90s, to be "regulado."

But now, she says, "Our relationship is very different. We joke a lot on the set. Mic Kanjai-Jimmy Zumbrong combos. We joke about them, too. When we go out, I am the penggigic. Ako ang ang unang pantawa." (Pia is always with boyfriend Vic Sotto.)

"All my friends and I, we share the same values," Mike points out. "Some certain things should be out shouldn't be, for example... We enjoy the same pursuits. Friendships such as ours are meant to be."

E-mail me/rs@philstar.com.ph

Worth the wait

From page E1

e year," Ashly, 31, told bayanan last week. "To walk down the isle is every girl's dream. I thought I would never experience it. When at last I did, it felt really good. It was worth the wait."

Ashley and Ilynn Agtarap, 30, tied the knot April 20 at the San Juan Bautista Church in San Juan, Batangas.

"It's been a month since ... I almost didn't notice. This could only mean it's happy. It feels good to wake up in the morning and see the face of the person I'm so in love with. I'm married to the perfect husband."

According to the wife, Ilynn has changed a lot since the wedding. "Mas mature siya. We have husband-and-wife moments, going to the hardware store, cooking together ... It wasn't like that before."

It might take a while, she said, before they could move to their new house "somewhere in the South." The five-bedroom home, Ashley said, "is big enough for a family that's just starting."

She continued: "We're still working on a lot of things for the house's finishes like interiors. Building a cozy ... but I've got my dream kitchen. We bought really nearly equipments, like those that food channa use."

They're ready to have their own baby, said Ashley. Right now, they have an adopted daughter, Ishan, 4. "But, no pressure. It's OK if it doesn't happen immediately."

Ashley and Ilynn will soon be seen in the movie, "George and Gerli," on the Kapamilya network.

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ENTERTAINMENT

ROBIN Padilla is the first Filipino member of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association

Our columnist elected to Golden Globe board

ROBIN V. MENDOZA, Inquirer's "Only In Hollywood" columnist and Los Angeles correspondent, was elected to the board of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), the group that presents the prestigious Golden Globe Awards for film and television annually.

The HFPA recently made the announcement following the election morning. Respicio is the first FilAm press member in the group's more than 80-year history.

(LOS ANGELES)

Lloydie: Ruffa wouldn't

By Marinell B. Cruz

TRUE SIGNS OF JOHN LLOYD CRUZ'S breakup with his girlfriend, magazine editor Lit Ty, made it to the papers. Now he's being romantically linked to Ruffa Gutierrez, his co-star in the defunct ABS-CBN drama "Berdy La Fea."

Tabloid reports quoted people who saw the 29-year-old actor sleeping in the new house with the beauty queen/TV host recently in a 9-star Makati hotel.

On Saturday, a TV show his program ancked a late-breaking report quoting Annabelle Rama who said her daughter Ruffa, 34, moved out of the family residence after an argument over "a younger man" who's supposedly Lloydie.

The report added that Annabelle's secret spot until the young man stops his pursuit.

Sen Cruz has repeatedly denied that he and Ruffa were dating. Speaking to the media at a gathering hosted by Magnet for Gak, he said the story was the "creation of people with wild imaginations."

Lloydie (Cruz's nickname) and the issues began when "Berdy La Fea" was about to end. "Malalaki nag-usi parties, so people would see us together, but always with the other cast members. Things were blown out of proportion," he told Inquirer.

"I don't think Ruffa would do anything to ruin her image and family name," Cruz added. "She has her kids to protect, too."

Ruffa has two daughters, Isabi, 6, and Venice, 5, with estranged husband, Yedish Ensberman/Weise Belfon.

However, Cruz said it's possible for him to fall for someone like Ruffa. "When love happens to you, yeah kung ngumiti sa tanggihan. I say I'm open-like about the possibility of liking friends."

Inside Gossiplus, he co-star in the hit romantic comedy movie "A Very Special Love" and its sequel "Ten Charged/My Girl," sne reserved to have teased Cruz's split-up with Ty, remarking that the singer-actress vehemently denied. "I don't blame others for thinking that I caused their breakup," Gutierrez said in a previous interview with the Inquirer. "Our love team was very effective. Nalagyan kng pe-ip talaga."

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Our columnist . . .

Rotonda F!

ry. He will cover the first term as a director of the entertained association with Jorge Garcesa. Entered into past presidents, chair, and Ali Sea, Theo Kingsten, transcends Gallo and Frances Solano, Jorge Lobo notice).

Also elected were Philip Bork, president; Rose Symbol, vice president; Jack Strohbary, treasurer; and Meher Tatus, executive secretary.

Nepales, who holds an AB degree in Communication Arts from the University of Santo Tomas, is profiled in the June 2009 issue of Healthwise magazine (www.healthwisemagazine.com).

In his column that appears every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Inquirer, Nepales writes about your round-porto conference-style interview with Hollywood and International film and TV talents dear he attends in an HFPA member, as well as net-rich and international film festivals. He makes it a point to spotlight Filipino talents on the global entertainment stage.

The nine officers and directors will be honored in the annual HFPA installation luncheon, at which time the group makes its annual donations to nonprofit organizations and film schools. The success of the Golden Globe Awards has enabled the non-profit organization to donate over $6 million to entertainment-related charities, fund scholarships and other programs. HFPA's humanitarian philanthropic efforts have been recognized by Variety, which gave the association its Benefactor of the Year award in 2008.

HFPA also donates to The Film Foundation to help preserve important films, including classics by Jean Renoir, John Ford, Stanley Kubrick, Alfred Hitchcock and other filmmakers. A world premiere of the newly restored 1948 masterpiece, "The Red Shoes," was presented by the HFPA and The Film Foundation at the recent Cannes Film Festival. Director Martin Scorsese, who introduced the special screening in Cannes and is the Film Foundation's chairman, is a statement: "Due to the incredible generosity of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, 'The Red Shoes' has been fully restored. Those of us who love film owe the HFPA a deep debt of gratitude."

Nepales, a native of Calasiao, Pangasinan, lives in Los Angeles with his wife Janet Isaiah N. Nepales, she is journalist and ex-HFPA member since 2008. They have two children, Bianca Nicole and Gabriella Angelica.

DID YOU KNOW...

Cinemabuhay 2009 finalists named

CINEMABUHAY, A FOUNDATION THAT aims to "help independent filmmakers cross over to mainstream cinema-making," recently announced that it has earmarked P1 million to produce a film "that's character-driven and not formulaic," said actor Albert Martinez, also its first committee chair.

"We're looking for the next Ishmael Bernal or Lino Brocka," Martinez told the Inquirer.

Cinemabuhay, the movie production arm of JEJ Dimes Foundation, also announced the finalists for the 2009 Cinemabuhay Awards: Richard Arguelz' "Stupid," Alvin Ryan's "Sagrado Familya," Ryan Mikhal Davis' "Slinky" Nemuel Jalet' "Slow Pads" and Jade A. Gonzalez' "The Net Dividend Lapel."

Marinel R. Cruz

Congratulations to the winners of Chinatrust's

"Thousand Reasons Why" Promo

Rene M. Acuña

Rowena Loreta C. Gralela

Here are the weekly winners of ₱10,000.00!

1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Cristina R. Alcaraz	Ian Robert M. Bacayo	Rose Agnes R. Mendoza	Armando G. Velasquez
Romeo S. Baggao	Maribel P. Bala	Jessica E. Ongpipe	Aurora R. Dinuncio
Milagros S. dela Torre	Karen C. Jimenez	Grace F. Limosa	Alma G. Ibarra
Anne Concepcion L. Avendaño	Alan B. Ouitalim	Kristine F. Rosario	Grace P. Ortega
Romeo B. Siongco	Fortunato C. Paglinawan	Nelson P. Torres	Perlita C. Gui

5th Week	6th Week	7th Week	8th Week
Joffrey G. Pagbenganan	Arelyn D. Laquin	Janet D. Lim	Bernie Irene M. Castillo
Michael O. Dancel	Edwin E. Gomez	Josephine P. Salarosa	Marilyn H. Hongan
Janet C. Gaffud	Mario Paz N. Canada	Ricardo M. Zurate	Raul G. Lansangan
Kristine H. Florencio	Sonia D. Matalangsay	Irish V. Javier	Wenda M. Navarete
Diane Kristel N. Gutierrez	Maria Theresa B. Pangilinan	Arturo B. Pastrana	Jose Carlos A. Valencia

Chinatrust

MA-ADIK NA NGAYONG GABI!

ANG PINAKABAGONG ROMANTIC COMEDY NA INYONG KAHUHUMALINGAN!

GABI-GABI sa GMA Telebabad

Digital Beatles

Sharlene for Robby: third 'Ice Age' soon

ABS-CBN TALENT SHARLENE SAN PEdro, 11-year-old star of "Goin' Bulilit," is the celebrity endorser of Bobby Rubbit school bags and supplies.

SHARLENE San Pedro

The company says Sharlene was picked because she is a good role model for kids.

Bobby Rubbit is a regular feature in ABS-CBN's Bonny Boo Foundation and (BMB) Skinny Bunyos."

Dinosaur Age

"Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs," third installment of the "Ice Age" franchise, comes soon to local theaters.

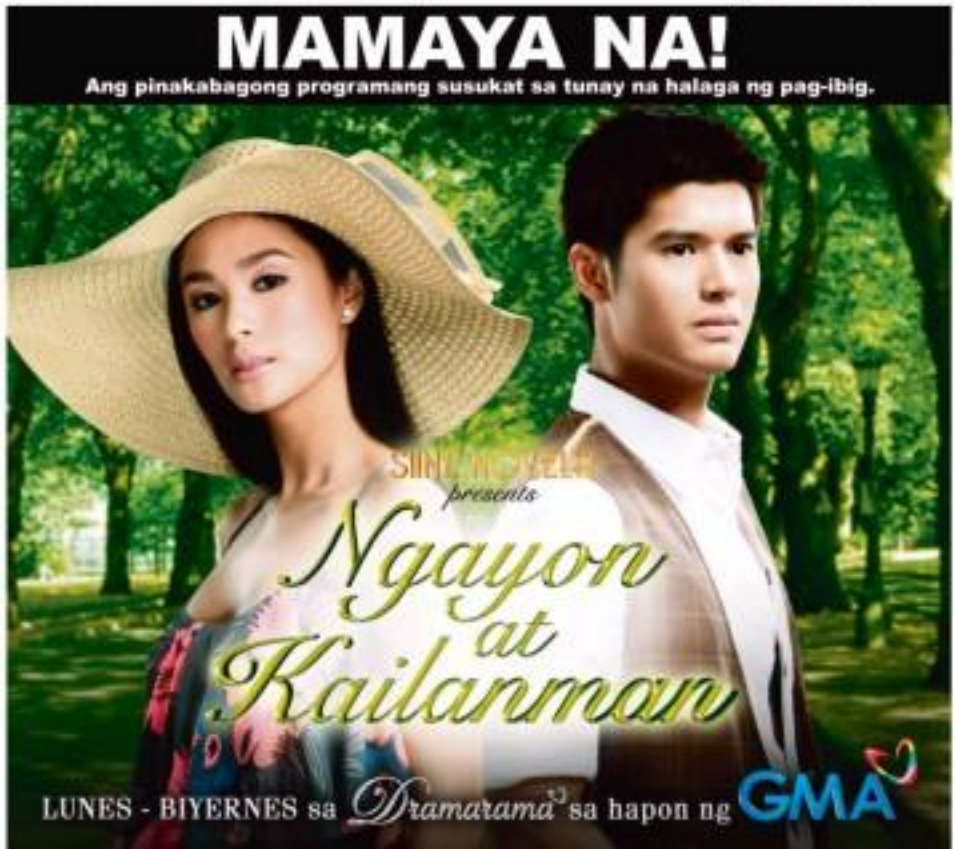
The sub-zero heroes embark another breathtaking adventure. The film promises more comedy, more action, more spectacular visuals—plus the magic of 3-D.

An immature sickle-pouted world population by dinosaurs is the setting of the new hero-vs.-

medium film. Buck Brontosaurus, who voices the voice of Manny, the mammoth's "When the dinosaurs show up, Manny is no longer king of the jungle."

Director Carlos Saldanha adds: "We plunk our heroes in a world they're not equipped to handle."

The movie opens nationwide July 1.



GRANDEST. Mendoza will have to find a high school coaching job.

LEARNING

Like Checkbook Forever

BENEDICT ENRIQUEZ Barangay loves to study and to learn

Wired for teaching

By Ayaderex Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

"I'M HAPPY IN THE ACADEME. I THINK my future is mixed for education," says Benedict Enriquez Barangay, the other topnotcher on the high school level LET.

The 29-year-old Microbiology major from General Luna, Daet, Bulacan (CLSU) says he is looking forward to teaching science in the high school girls of Mabini College, as well as finishing up the last units in his graduate studies at the University of the Philippines College of Education.

"It dumb that, in the entire year, Benedict, the youngest of the four children of Genaro (now late) and Lydia, had dropped out of high school. "We didn't know the exact reason for his dropping out," says older sister Blanche who lives in Nueva Ecija. "We

HS LET TOPNOTCHERS

No. 1 instills lifetime skills

By Perla Aragon-Choudhury
Correspondent

ONE OF THE TWO FIRST PLACERS IN THE April Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) is—surprise!— neither an education major nor a fresh graduate.

Ground VII Mendoza got his degree in mathematics (cum laude) in 1997. If you do the math, you can conclude that he is nearly seven (minus three) years (with grad. And he is—all of 42) and married with children.

His three kids—Trish, 7 (a Barack, 6, and Ilia Kat, 7 months,...are his inspiration, Mendoza says.

Mendoza, who studied at Lourdes School and the University of the Philippines, Diliman, says he got his aptitude for math from his dad, a retired colonel in the military and former assistant dean of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business.

He became instructor I in UP in 1997, conducting classes in algebra and trigonometry and helping construct departmental examinations. He became Lecturer II in 2003.

After a year of teaching, he became a Microbiology graduate and earned a BS Economics degree from the University of Hiroshima in 1984.

His proficiency in Nihongo landed him various positions, from account officer in the Japanese desk of the Philippine Bank to vice president of Ateneo-SOTE Information Systems Inc., the IT subsidiary of SOTE Technical Inc.

Despite those challenges, something was lacking, he told his wife Cynthia.

"She asked me what I really wanted to do and I said I had enjoyed teaching at UP," he says. So he returned to the university but started thinking about another kind of teaching. "But I Cynthia's support, my dream of teaching in high school."

Loving math

"I want to reach students when they are in high school, the right time to help them gain inside literacy," he says. "In elementary school, math is largely memorization, use of multiplication tables, but in high school, we can instill skills that last a lifetime."

He believes he has motivated his students to understand and appreciate logic in math. "I had students telling me how they gave love math, and parents asking me how I did it when their children used to hate math," he says.

Mendoza would hold twice classes for free to help students who were not doing well. But almost the whole class would attend the special sessions.

He once conducted summer courses in math for Department of Science and Technology scholars. He also volunteered to tutor students in math, engineering, and sciences at the UP Gawad ng "Diwaguro" Bonta. At Diliman Learning Resource Center.

Despite his impressive LET showing, Mendoza has failed to land the dream job of high school teacher.

Not hiring today

He applied at his alma mater, Lourdes School, which is near his parents' home where he and his family live.

But Lourdes, as well as another private school he tried, is not hiring new teachers at present. He is reluctant to apply in public schools because he has heard that hiring there is political (a matter of who and not what you know).

Unable to get a teaching job, he is seriously considering an offer from a telecommunications giant to work in its call center for the Japanese market.

The dean of the UP Institute of Mathematics also considers open.

"Well, Reynaldo (Vea) and I could...Things beyond my control Chi! Han take over. It's His way of showing me the way," he says.

Mendoza completed the all-hour teaching Education Course at the Diliman Interactive Learning Center, but needed 18 units in pedagogical education to be able to take the LET.

He attended classes twice weekly for a semester in the Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP).

Playgrounds for the MIND

E-mail: [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph
Edna Rivera Espinosa

Member Schools

Learning beyond academics

AT THE HEART OF UNO OF THE quiet environs of Libis in Quezon City lies Montessori International School (UNO), a preschool and elementary school whose core mission is to provide internationally recognized and learner-centered programs for children of all ages and abilities.

Since it was established in 2000, Montessori has always aimed to offer programs that will prepare children for a bright future. It tries its best to provide quality education through the use, phenomenon of a learner-centered curriculum taught by highly trained and competent professionals that make up its staff. But perhaps what makes the school's even more distinct is its progressive approach to teaching and learning.

Montessori's community seeks to improve the quality of education that it offers through the continuous training of teachers and upgrading of facilities. In the classroom, students are free to express their thoughts and opinions. Everyone is given the chance to be heard and everyone has the responsibility to listen to other students' ideas. While Montessori's curriculum is academic, it also realizes the students realize that for every freedom they enjoy there is a corresponding responsibility.

Aside from a small class size and programs that involve three languages (English, Filipino and Chinese Mandarin), Montessori also values pride in its Enterprise curriculum. By including this in the curriculum as early as the first grade, the students are able to develop their entrepreneurial skills at a very young age.

Being an advocate of experiential learning, Montessori integrates varied learning experiences so the children can be exposed to the realities of life and may be empowered by providing them the necessary life skills. "Learning is for life," school director Jeffrey Ilas says, "so we do our best to provide our students with education that will last a lifetime."

For more information, please call 633-4000 or 437-2747. E-mail info@montessorischool.com or visit their website www.montessorischool.com. UNO is located at EDC Building, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City.

UE, SUN AGREEMENT SIGNED

The University of the East (UE) College of Computer Studies and Systems (CCSS), has signed an agreement with Sun Microsystems Philippines Inc. designating the UE CCSS as an Authorized Sun Education Center (Asec). "The approval allows the UE CCSS to handle students' enrollments in SunMicrosystems' programs, applications and exercises, which they can in turn teach to CCSS students. The MOA signing last April 14 at the SE Building marks one big partnership between UE and SunMicrosystems was attended by (from left) CCSS college secretary and professor Ms. Teresa C. Bendon, Sun Microsystems executive manager Chad E. Lund, Asec services director Ms. Maria B. Ilustre, UE president and chief executive officer Dr. Cielo Adriano Garcia, UE Manila executive behind-the-scenes foe, and CCSS dean and professor Rodney A. Mendiola.

LAST DAY FUNK

Student performers of the Far Eastern University-Institute of Nursing Bachelor of Nursing from the Special Program in Nursing presented their very own pep rally titled "Liberation" at the FEU Freedom Park. This play was the last production of the year-long "Battle of Pandan," a project of FEU's Presidential Committee on Culture in raising funds for campaigns in the community using different parts of the beautiful old Mediterranean architectural design. In addition to the historic FEU Auditorium.

UB cited as second top performing midwifery school

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION RECOGNIZED UNIVERSITY OF BATANGAS (UB) College of Nursing and Midwifery as the country's second top performing midwifery school (80-89 percent passing category) on May 25, at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel. The members of the board of midwifery handed the certificate to (fr. first row) Dr. Perla Cruz (2nd president), Dr. Victor M. Argudos (VP, academic affairs) and the members (l. to r., second row) Dr. Reves Cruz, College of Nursing and Midwifery). UB registered a national passing average of 84 percent. The awarding of medals and certificates was immediately followed by the oath taking of successful examinees in the Midwife Licensure Examination in April. For enrollment details, visit the UB College of Nursing and Midwifery, Hilltop Campus, Batangas City or call (043)723-1446 local 603.

Development initiative for Batangas schools launched

BATO BALAN FOUNDATION INC (BBFI) AND First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (FAITH) launched recently the Synergy-UBB Academic Development Initiative for Schools (Stadis). Stadis is a program spearheaded by BBFI and FAITH to aid in the development of public high schools in north Batangas through technology integration programs, teacher training, and scholarships.

St. Jude College offers enhanced Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy

WITH THE GROWING DEMAND for respiratory therapists both here and abroad, St. Jude College has responded to the needs of the health care industry by providing an enhanced Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy (BSRT) course.

Beginning school year 2009-2010, the School of Rehabilitation Sciences that offers the BSRT course will have the most well-equipped pulmonary laboratory among Philippine schools offering the course. Some of the equipment that the students will handle during the course are a variety of ventilators from the Siemens Servo series, Servo 900C, Puritan Bennett 700 and 7200 series; infant ventilators; CPAP devices, both the fixed and non-moded; blood devices for non-invasive ventilation, sleep screening laboratory for obstructive sleep apnea, oxygen monitoring device, ECG, cardiac monitors, defibrillators, infusion pumps, spirometry, and virtual laboratory where students can practice blood extraction and perform CPR.

Competencies that will enhance their clinical knowledge and skills will be taught by the faculty of the college who are BS Respiratory Therapy graduates with vast experience in handling respiratory diseases, critical care medicine, sleep study and the use of different equipment and devices.

Upon completion of the course, graduates can be employed as respiratory therapists, educators, product specialists in respiratory care industry, and sleep lab technicians.

For inquiries, contact the School of Rehabilitation Sciences at 781-2600 Ext. 2615 or 2616.

TAMAYO CITED

Commissioner of Filipino Languages (CFL) Lamberto Antonio and University of Perpetual Help System president and chief executive officer Dr. Tony Tamayo (3rd from right) receive a framed copy of the resolution "Para sa Pagpupugay" to their co-nominees of DLSU-Taft dean Jose Santos Cruz from right, during the commission's special session in U.P. Town Center, Diliman, Quezon recently.

TIP graduates land in top 10 in board exams in KSA

SEVEN GRADUATES OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL Institute of the Philippines (TIP) Manila and Quezon City are among the top 10 in the Civil Engineer and Architect Licensure Examinations administered by the Professional Regulation Commission in Al-Khobar and in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in March. The 20 topnotchers in Jeddah, KSA were named Salacnib Mojo, 3rd place; Marienelle Paylaga Arboleda, 9th; Harold John Reyes King, 7th; and Mercedes Tarnate Ramos, 9th. Also in 9th place in Al-Khobar were Nancy Ann Abrahan Rizo, in Jeddah and in Al-Khobar, KSA, architect topnotchers were Adriann Chanise Tenorio Jr., 2nd place, and Francis Fernandez, 2nd.

ISOM INTERNATIONAL BOOK LAUNCH AT UP MANILA

For those who would like to know what it was like to Dance during Dictator Mae Zu Dung's time, there is a new book launched May 25 at the College of Arts and Sciences, UP Manila. The book, "Silya Ong-yan's and Under Spells: The Lives and Struggles of Two Generations in Modern Dimat by Cate Yuan Tiong, is the biography of Dr. Jean Henrietta Lewis "Sid" Lopez - the woman who chose to work along side ordinary Dilatan people for more than 50 years. The book is available at Bear Foundation (tel. 402-0201-1000 local 02 loc. 301). Endorsing the book are (from left), professor Bernard Kayanan, OAS dean Peg Imperial, professor Soledad Reyes, Dan Yuan Dimat, Fan Yu Dimat, the author's sister), Ayrmond L. Lenaang (then-executive director), and Dr. Ed Villegas.

A&M signs agreement with University of Mindanao

THE PASSIONATE DESIRE OF SEVERAL Greenville residents to help students in the Philippines has led them to forge A&M University-Commerce, where an agreement was signed to admit Filipino students from the University of Mindanao, Davao City.

Dr. Alexis Mindil, president of Mindanao Core International, and A&M-Commerce president Dan R. Jones signed the memorandum of agreement that would allow students to enroll at A&M-Commerce and would establish a Cross-Cultural Studies Exchange and Internship Program.

Seeing the poverty and violence in the southern Philippines led Mindil to establish Mindanao Core International, a charitable non-governmental and non-profit organization committed to assisting the impoverished through economical and educational development.

Two Filipino students will enroll this fall with one studying nursing and the other business. They will take workplace skills in an internship that complements their coursework.

The University of Mindanao was established in 1946 and is one of the oldest universities in southern Philippines with an enrollment of about 20,000.

Mindil, his parents in Greenville, and several Greenville residents, including businessman Bee Hilton and his wife Mary Jean, have travelled to the Philippines to become acquainted with the culture, culture, and the students.

MCI not only provides full scholarships for impoverished indigenous and Muslim students, but also provides counseling and income opportunities to its scholars.

Through its initiatives, MCI nurtures community development, life and work skills, and civic responsibility.

Graduates will work part-time in local medical facilities and at Trust Services Inc. where Hilton is president and chief executive officer.

The students will join about 400 other foreign students from 90 nations at A&M-Commerce.

Assignment: DepEd

Schools defy DepEd's 'no fee' directive

By Jerry E. Esplanada

EDUCATION SECRETARY Jesli A. Lapus said some public school principals and teachers continued to ignore DepEd Order No. 40 (Series of 2008), entirely prohibiting collection of fees.

Order No. 68, General Guidelines for the Opening of Classes, reiterates the provisions of DepEd Order No. 19 (Series of 2008) calling for the strict enforcement of the "no fee collection" policy in all state-run primary and secondary schools nationwide.

But, despite repeated warnings, DepEd continued to receive complaints of violation of the directive.

In a statement, Lapus reminded parents again, "Bring all school-aged children to school and make sure you don't shell out a coin because education in public schools is guaranteed free by our Constitution."

In a May 29 statement, Lapus said "school heads and teachers are already penalized from collecting any fees from school children."

As of June 1, the DepEd's Bulik Edcom Command Center in Pasig City had received over 250 complaints related to school opening. About 90 involved the collection of various school fees.

DepEd sources said many children were unenrolled.

Sanction for violators

Lapus warned that those found guilty of violating the department order would face administrative sanctions.

A list furnished to the bureaus indicated that several Quezon City schools were among the order offenders.

They included the Seven Elementary School, Batasan Magsaysay Elementary School, San Diego Elementary School, Payatas B Multi-Elementary School, Culiat Elementary School, Batasan Hills Integrated High School, and San Francisco High School.

Also on the list were the Pantabangan Elementary School in Pantabangan City; Mangaldan Day Care Center, San Leonardo Bula Elementary School and Magpalayang Memorial High School, all in Pasig City.

Gaganag West Kabalikatan 1 Kindergarten in Muntinlupa City; and Malitubog High School in Valenzuela City.

The office of Valenzuela party-list Rep. Raymond Palatino received a complaint against Quezon City schools University of the Philippines Integrated (PHAST) in Sikatuna Hill, Culiat (BF-Metro), Ridge Corbin Station-Palmera (Fruit), New Era (PHASE), and Quirino (PHASE).

Palatino said the

In most cases, parents-teachers associations (PTAs) supported the collection of fees, according to DepEd sources. Some PTAs made it appear the contributions were "voluntary", they said.

The same sources said many school heads defied the DepEd order because of the very limited allocations for maintenance, operating and other expenses.

Lapus said the government had made efforts to make education affordable to all Filipinos, adopting the "no collection" and "no classroom" policies to push education to help enhance parents' finances.

But Tony Bideo, spokesman of the militant League of Filipino Students, said "free basic education is a myth as the government has never fully funded education despite the yearly promises of the start of classes."

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers said "all school fees should be declared to fund free universal access to basic education."

ACT chair Antonio Tinio said, "The only genuine solution is for the government to provide schools with sufficient funds for their day-to-day maintenance and operating expenses. Lack of these is the main reason principals defy this order."

Teachers are victims, too

Some Bicolano public school teachers, meanwhile, accused their superiors of "making money" from their uniform allowances. A similar complaint was received last year from teachers of a southern Batangas town.

In a phone interview, Lapus said "Our Bulik Edcom with Assistant Director Corazon Bautista and Regional Director Ramon Uson collected by three schools were "highly questionable."

"What is a step fee or not paper fee for? Some fees have long been declared non-compulsory by the DepEd," Palabrica said.

Jacquino has also advised to DepEd several complaints against fee collections.

Among those mentioned in the complaints were the Ideal Compreheusive High School in Bonao Oriental, Bay Bay Elementary School in Leyte, and the Tubo National High School (Annex) in Tarlac City.

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Holiday program for kids

THE JULIA GABRIEL CENTRE for Listening, an early learning institution, kicks off its Philippine operations with a three-week Holiday Program on June 16-July 4.

Josephine Bern, principal, said the Singapore-based school's Manila affiliate is now accepting applicants for the program.

Included in the program are Playnest, 6 months to 1½ years; Playclub "English and Mandarin), 1½-2½ years; Bilingual Playclub, same age group; Echo Cinema (English), 3-4 years; and Readers and Writers, 4½-6½ years.

Julia Gray, a music teacher from London, and Fiona Pullen, chief executive officer and principal director of the Julia Gabriel schools, arrived recently from Singapore to assist in the program.

Teaching Mandarin is Ha Gui Ling from China.

The Julia Gabriel Centre for Learning's early education curriculum is said to develop language and communication skills in the very young through speech and drama activities.

Englishwoman Julia Gabriel founded the first Julia Gabriel Centre in Singapore almost 20 years ago.

The Julia Gabriel Centre for Learning Manila is at 429 Shaw Blvd., corner A. Mabini St., Mandaluyong City. Tel. 725-0919, 725-4133 and 703-1983. E-mail enquiries@juliagabriel.com.ph or jgcmanila@gmail.com. Visit www.juliagabriel.com.

Wired for teaching

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just stayed home and self-studied."

Rosalyn left fully awarded the College of Education's Outstanding Graduate in Cabanatuan where the family lived because his civil engineer father was working for the government. When he did get an overseas job, the family moved to Quezon City where Rosalyn decided in the graduate school of the Philippine Normal University.

Even his father's return home working abroad, the family moved back to Cabanatuan where Rosalyn had started teaching at CLSU.

"It would have been hard to transfer because I was already on my fourth year in high school," he says. "So I decided to quit school and study by myself. Lalo ko pang mahirap (it was harder). I took up Education, which was focused on those at CLSU."

To qualify for college admission, he took the Philippine Educational Placement Test and received a certification from the then Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports that he had completed the equivalent of high school. He also passed the National College Entrance Examination with an impressive rating of 99+ percent.

Studious

Its mention says Rosalyn has always been studious. "He loved to read even as a young boy. He would read anything he could find to the house."

He is really traveling now and diligent in his studies. He doesn't even go home during the summer vacation. "He loves painting," says Manola, adding that today Benedict paints to boost dogs and send the paintings to their hometown.

After completing his B.S. Biology degree at CLSU in 1991, good-looking Rosalyn soon landed a job. Benedict was supposed to go on to medical school. By that time, however, his family could no longer afford the expense, so he stayed on at CLSU to accept a teaching job.

He then left the university to join a manufacturing company and study philosophy and theology for four years. He says, "They were the unresolved years of feelings [about] not awakening, personal involvement and [the] search for meaning and self-empowerment."

Beyond that LET because he likes teaching. "I do not think of any other job where you can keep on talking to what you know and adding to other others know."

Rosalyn had borrowed money to review because, he says, he didn't have time to attend review classes. He was taking 12 units for his masters program last semester and was required to submit many papers. By early April when the LET was given, he still had papers due.

His good was enough to pass the exams. "I just wanted to get it over with," he says, "and not have to go through the dreaded jobs I [previously] did."

As it turned out, Benedict topped the examination in a rating of 93.6 percent. He is the wife Grizel Vicente Bautista-Mendoza.

His family in Nueva Ecija only found out from the papers and the radio. "My sister-in-law received an email on TLEX congratulating him," says Manola.

"I'm happy. Ever CLSU feels that way about us. I owe a lot to them," says Benedict. "I would not have been able to go to college if not for CLSU. They charged only P8 per unit, and if you were a scholar you paid even less."

How does one top the LET? "What really helped was stock knowledge," he says. "If you have a good foundation—attend your classes, listen to your lectures—and if you're interested, you'll make it."

Magic

He is not sure he wants to leave teaching. He says he likes it because "it is interesting. I see that the most students today are not interested in knowledge in class. Still, there are those who like magic in them and you get to engage the good students."

What kind of a teacher is he? "I give a lot of examples," says Benedict. "I never get compliments from my grade school and high school teachers. I only got compliments in graduate school."

He adds that he has done significantly improved results at UP because of substitutes like Grace Roa and Liza Bolos-Oingco.

Benedict has no learning desire to work abroad, but if the opportunity presents itself, he says he might go. "After 9, money does not seem to be so important," he says. "If you think that way, you end up getting more."

College marks anniversary with biblical play

THE BIBLED AZURALDO College marked its 50th anniversary with the presentation by Tanglalang Yaman Ltd. of the Ayala-Iloilo International School (AIIS) at the play "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

The cast consisted of 828 students, as well as FACE-only Learning Center pupils.

Leading the cast were Ahmad Aljani Alauto, Nadine Endaya, Hee Kyung Cho and Shandira Robin Idanti, Ainabaeh Aljani Alauto, Jason Gil Perez, Juan Gabriel Lim, Sahir Hassan, Gabriel Rhoba Lim and Lester Magsaysay.

AIS superintendent Kevin Philip Jones said the production was just one of many projects for their students to hone their skills and talents in acting and every aspect of learning.

AIS is at 2123-1217 Jim Marcelino Street, Encino, Manila. tel. 5302230. Visit www.ais.edu.ph.

A SCENE from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

EUREKA! *Gemma N. Lee-Chua*

What to take in college

RICE, 18, OF QUEZON CITY writes: I am a student at the Ateneo de Manila High School and I will start my senior year this month. (By the way, my friends in the Ateneo Math Olympiad have been saying about the AHSO method of teaching: exercise becomes solve word problems). I am working on a topic I have not yet encountered in your columns. You have much insight to offer, since you are a teacher who plays a significant role in the formation and growth of young people.

I am a realist, and the inevitable question that pops up in every conversation with a grownup is: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" or "What course are you planning to take in college?" I'm actually clueless. I've been narrowing down my choices, but I would like to seek your advice, whether from your own personal experience. Choosing mathematics over communication arts? or perhaps from psychology over business. What factors should be considered when deciding on a course? Should I choose based on what I'm good at or what I'm interested in? I want to assume that I'll be good at what I am truly passionate about. How many people discuss the idea that loving a particular discipline stands for smartness. In this, the time to choose what I truly want though I may not be the best at it (yet)? Or do I go with the safe, practical choice, even what I think I'll be most competent at?

If you're not a student who is unhappy in his choice, what made him regret it? Why were others happy with their decision? It's embarrassing and a little disturbing that young people nowadays don't seem to put enough thought in choosing a career or at least follow a decision-making process. Perhaps we just need a little guidance.

Your dilemma is an easy one! I am happy that you are thinking carefully about your college major.

Follow your heart

Should you take something you like or are interested in? Definitely in my case. I could not stand the sight of blood or, even if my parents were both medical doctors, medicine will never in my list of choices. Even if math is not as big a big deal to me as taking in the future.

I admire her tenacity. To help them do push, I urged her to take up creative writing (Ateneo Writes).

Should you take a course you have the aptitude for? That may be an easy way out, but others are to be supported to train us to things we do not yet know.

You are right about me. When I was in high school, I was very homesick going into the sciences or the arts, since I love both. Both, and I love them and I have an aptitude for them.

But I wanted to really excel in at least one of them, and I chose. I avoided guidance. A counselor said high-level math was an absurd. I would need outside help to do well, but reading great literature and writing great essays were my skills. I could focus on my own.

I wanted to have my cake and eat it, too, so I decided to take up math, but in the honors [even if my parents were from the University of the Philippines Diliman] because I knew the university would honor me to honor my commendable skills.

I was right. When I had four Humanities as electives in advanced placement (AP) math and Honors Humanities in AP English in the first semester of my freshman year, I knew I had made the right choice. I worked in both challenges.

Shift or double major

If after choosing a course you feel later on that it is not right for you, you can always shift. After seeing many students go from one course to another, I realize many teenagers are not yet mature enough to make up their minds. There is nothing wrong with that!

After all, adolescence is a time for exploration, and heroes, for one, discusses in curricula in such a way that both current (whatever their source) and historically relevant subjects —math, English, Filipino, history, literature—do not really speak to us—just as they do not. Only then have better what their field of study requires, and what college life demands in general. So don't worry too much if you cannot be definite about your field of study now.

Pick a course you are interested in, where you may be lucky good at. Talk to your family about what they like, prospects, compensation if necessary, and want to be flexible. Right now, do your best so you can make the university of your dreams. Enjoy your last year of high school!

E-mail the author at theeureka@yahoo.com.

No. 1 instills ...

From page G1

When he topped the LET, his TIP teachers "remembered me as the one who had many questions." And that is one tip for all the LET takers: Ask questions.

Also, try to understand the question instead of memorizing the answer so you are not thrown off if the pattern changes," he adds.

He also advises people to persevere. "I was already old when I took the test," he says, adding that he admires those who keep on taking the exam until they pass.

He credits the no. 1 TIP professors for his achievements—Josefina Magpale, Lourdes Garcia and Marcela Lyon—who were "very inspiring, motivating, and enthusiastic in pursuing the real world."

Historic town gets futuristic school

Text by Linda O. Bolido
Photos by Benny Hombale

IT MAY HAVE TAKEN its name from the Latverite "hangout" of the fourth century Greek philosopher Aristotle, but Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) is very much into the now and the tomorrow.

Perhaps the most emphatic symbol of its commitment to keep abreast of changing times is the impressive and sprawling new campus in General Trias, Cavite, that dominates what is still mainly empty landscape—a stand and concrete complex that looks like an intergalactic airport seen only in big-budget Hollywood science fiction movies.

Alternatively called the airport campus and the Lyceum by the 21st Century, the complex's design inspiration is both Greek and Filipino.

Divided into two wings that are "tied" together by the entrance, the complex's architect Tropy Gaspar's risers marketing of one of the most enduring symbols of excellence and serving during back to Aristotle's time—a corner of classic town.

Of course, it is also a nod to the illustrious family that established Lyceum in 1952, the Lanuelo.

Although Lyceum General Trias offers practically all the programs the main and original school in Intramuros, Manila, carries, the linchpin of the 18-course prospectus, as we've appraised of a recent campus, is the cluster of programs related to the hotel and restaurant and interrelated tourism industries.

One wing has a functioning intelligent complete with a front desk and rooms for guests. It is serviced on a rota-

BUILT like a modern airport terminal, the top floor is a favorite students' hangout.

tion basis by trained, vocational hotel restaurant students who have to meet a minimum number of hours for their practicum, a requirement for graduation.

At the ground floor of the same wing is a bistro where students hone their skills in operating a food business.

Strategic location

General Trias, although steeped in history for it's the site of the First City in Cavite, the first uprising in the province during the Philippine revolution in 1896), might seem an odd choice for a campus that is meant to be the symbol of the future for the almost 60 years old school.

But Roberto Laurel, president of both Manila and Cavite campuses, said the location was strategically located. "Next door" is Tere Martires, administrative hub of the province. Close by are several factories and the Cavite Export Processing Zones.

The industrial corridor can be source of both employment for graduates and students, as workers in these firms need not have to look for a school for their children.

In fact, LPU General Trias is already benefiting from the advantages offered by being close to the several PEZA (Local

said the university did not have to build dormitories, with the school being on the highway, it was easy for students commute if they lived in neighboring municipalities.

Those who lived farther away could easily find boarding houses that also catered to out-of-town workers.

Open space

While other schools jostle for space for their branches in the adjoining towns of Dasmariñas and Silang, contributing to the congestion and traffic jams in those areas, LPU has all that wide open space to itself, making it seem so much bigger than its four hectare area.

Classes for the campus' close to 1,500 students who are mainly Caviteños, are from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Between 4 and 5:30 p.m., students do research, class work and other activities. Since most students commute, the campus practically shuts down at the end of this second half hour activity period.

Unlike to most schools where hordes of students rush from one room to the next for their classes, LPU minimizes human traffic by making the 30 or so faculty considers do the walking. Students stay in one room and wait for their professors or instructors to come to them.

Lyceum of the Philippines was established by Jose P. Laurel, former President of the Philippines, chief justice of the Supreme Court, and senator, running it after Lyceum, whose historic taught young progressives. The motto "Veritas et Fortitudo, Pro Deo et Patria" (Literally "Truth and Courage, for God and Country") reflected how much the visionary values and learning and character formation for God and country.

When he died in 1950, the mantle of the school he founded was left to his third son Salvoy. Now Salvoy's sons Roberto and Peter manage the school that has expanded to four campuses. Peter is president of the campuses in their native Batangas and the neighboring province of Laguna.

The four campuses had a combined enrollment of about 25,000 in school year 2008-2009. Almost half of the students, some 10,000, were taking up hospitality courses.

ROBERTO Laurel

In a speech during the 118th birth anniversary of Lyceum's founder, Chief Justice Benjamin S. Paredes commended the school for continuing to embody Laurel's ideals. "The Lyceum, with its reputation for being a forteress of traditional nationalism and superior education, is an asset to our country's educational system," Perez said.

Lyceum of the Philippines University General Trias is on Governor's Drive, tel. 046-4048093. Visit www.lyceumphil.edu.ph.

MIRAHEM (second from left) and Gomez III (right) with their coaches

Quiz Bee winners named

CHALTENE HONORES RECENTLY the four winners in the 29th National Quiz Bee Grand Finals at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City.

They were Kristine Joy Mosada, Santiago North Central School (Isabela Region II); Makabayan category; Nina Anna Reyneza, St. Paul College-Pasig (National Capital Region); multimedium; Abraham Gomez III, Apalac Science High School (Cordillera Administrative Region); science and technology; and Tyri Adolf Bautista of "Bhel" Visayas State University (Isabe City, Region III), general information and international affairs.

Gloria Tayag, cohoster of the National Quiz Bee Foundation, said the National Quiz Bee was about academic excellence and values formation.

Brightening the lives of children in GK villages

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH General Kalingas, the Manila Electric Company inaugurated recently the Meralco Filled School in the Barrio GK Village in Manila and Sitio GK Village in Cubacub City.

This brings the total number of Meralco filled Schools to 23.

Christopher Pop, head of Meralco's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) office, said the school was the company's way of nurturing the dreams of children and families and building community through education.

It aimed to address the need for community-based preschool education at the heart of GK communities, he said.

The Brasco school in Bagong Lupa, Pure Iloilo, is the second in Manila while the school in Designer GK Village in Bagong Silang, the country's biggest barangay, is the fifth in Cubacub.

In Manila, Ilagan Alfredo Lim welcomed the Meralco team headed by Manuel V. Lopez, chair and CEO, and Jose P. de Jesus, president and COO.

Representatives of Barangay Bahay Toro, Barangay Bagong Silang, Barangay chair Gina Padilla met the Meralco and GK contingent in Cubacub. Ben Mendiluna, special project head of GK, delivered an inspirational message.

Lopez said Meralco was "committed to having a legacy in the field of education" as an investment for the future.

Lopez, with De Jesus, and GK's Tony Mejino unveiled the new Manila school's marker.

Every Meralco filled School has a Learning Learning Package consisting of learning materials, storybooks, educational toys, furniture and equipment.

Visit www.meralco.com.ph.

COMMUNITY BASED. Meralco's Ce Jesus and Lopez and General Kalinga's Padilla with the students of the new filled school in Manila

HOW'S YOUR ENGLISH!

When ePLDT Vitrics offered an all-expense paid, three-day English proficiency training-workshop for teachers recently under the sponsorship of PLDT Smart Foundation (PSF), 15 elementary and secondary public school teachers from Metro Manila and nearby provinces participated. Aimed at helping teachers gain valuable communication skills, the training was developed by ePLDT Vitrics for Going Global (GG). ePLDT Vitrics president Victor Marquez said the workshop would equip teachers with the right tools and materials to strengthen the English communication skills of their students. Since 2005, over 150 public and private school teachers have benefited from the program. TIC, which also awards scholarships or education students, is a project of PSF in partnership with the PLDT Managers Club Inc.